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MUSTAN FAMILY
AND
ITS ACTIVITIES
IN
MYSORE

BY
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SOWCAR AND SILK MERCHANT
Chennapatna

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PREFACE.

IN the year 1913, I put together a few particulars regarding the services rendered by the members of my family for the past several generations for the development of Sericulture in the Mysore State and printed them in the form of a pamphlet. Later on, friends suggested to me that an enlarged edition of the same, with all correspondence in original, will be of great utility both to the public and the future generations for reference. In our family records there are ledgers of the purchase and sale of silk products and of the cultivation of Mulberry for the past 120 years continuously and a collection of specimen coins, 250 years old. Such a collection of reliable figures, letters and coins is very rare, and the public need not be deprived of the advantages which may accrue in the march of time from such sources of information and study.

Further, the members of my family have, from the commencement of their immigration into Mysore from the Maharashtra Kingdom, lived on terms of great intimacy with their Hindu brethren of all communities and castes. They have also set an excellent example of unfaltering loyalty to the historic throne of Mysore and the British Government. These rich legacies will, I hope, serve as the guiding principles of life in the future to our sons, grandsons and great-grandsons.

The progress of modern civilization is so rapid that it is becoming exceedingly difficult to preserve old records and a description of old traditions. In my humble opinion the one effective way of preserving them is their publication in a book form with all available details.

My family owes a great debt of gratitude to the generous aid given to it by Srimanth Purnayya, the famous Minister of Mysore, under the three celebrated rulers, Nawab Hyder Ali Khan, Nawab Tippu Sultan, and H. H. the Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar. Even to-day we preserve with great reverence the small Koran presented by Srimanth Purnayya to the family, the Koran used at one time by Nawab Tippu Sultan. As a token of the cordiality which has always prevailed between my ancestors and the representatives of European races, I may mention that Signor Gorio, the Italian Consul at Bombay, sent to my father at Chennapatna a Koran.

The particulars embodied in the following pages will show how my ancestors, though they had not the benefit of English education, had imbibed fully the highest virtues of the most modern races and how they were guided in all their actions by a high sense of duty to their Sovereign and Country.

I have to pass the proof of this book rather in haste owing to my somewhat indifferent health at present and the time taken by me to prepare myself to go to London to see the Empire Exhibition as desired by the Government of H. H. the Maharaja of Mysore. I shall be glad to rectify any mistakes which might have unconsciously crept into these pages in the next edition.

FAYAZ M. ABDUL QUDDUS.

CHENNAPATNA,
26th December 1923.

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CHAPTER 1.

Migration into Mysore.

Lal Ahmed Sahib. The Mustan Family may be traced from the 17th Century A.D., from a line of Mussalman Warriors, who distinguished themselves in Military Services. Lal Ahmed Sahib was an officer in the Bijapur Army in the 17th Century A.D. When the Emperor Aurangazeb captured Bijapur, the rule of Secundar Adil Sha, Badsha of Bijapur, terminated, and Lal Ahmed Sahib came and settled at Shanoor near Hubli. He joined the Maharatta Army at Poona when Balaji Viswanath, the illustrious Peshwa, came to power. Lal Ahmed Sahib later on resigned his post in the Army enlisting therein the name of **Tajuddin Ahmed Sahib**, his son. Tajuddin Ahmed Sahib, by heroic acts, won the approbation of Balaji Viswanath and retired from the Army at his 60th year in the year 1161 Hijira.

Gulam Mohammad Sahib. Then Gulam Mohammad Sahib, his son, entered the Poona Army in lieu of his father. Gulam Mohammad Sahib died in his 64th year in 1200 Hijira.

(1785 A.D.) after rendering all his life approved service in the Maharatta Army.

Imamuddin Ahmed Sahib and Peer Mohammad Sahib.—His sons Imamuddin Ahmed Sahib and Peer Mohammad Sahib and his son-in-law Shaik Sultan Sahib, entered the Maharatta Army. At that time hostilities broke out between the British and the Maharattas. Misunderstandings also arose between the Peshwas and the family of Sivaji, the illustrious Founder of the Maharatta Confederacy. There was consequently a great deal of disturbance in the Civil and Military Administration. Therefore, the two brothers came to Shanoor.

Destruction of Property. Peer Mohammad Sahib and Shaik Sultan Sahib were taken prisoners by Nawab Tippu Sultan in 1792⁸⁷ A.D., and sent to Seringapatam. What enraged Tippu Sultan was, that Gulam Mohammad Sahib, the father of the two brothers, being a Mohamadan, should have served the Peshwas. Therefore, Tippu Sultan ordered Gulam Mohammad Sahib's house to be destroyed. All the Medals and Khillats won by Gulam Mohammad Sahib and his ancestors in Bijapur and Poona armies were thus lost for ever.

Hindu-Mohammadan Amity.---It is a matter of historical interest that all the above Mussalman soldiers served under the Hindu Flag, a fact which throws a flood of brilliant light on the Hindu-Mohammadan amity of those times. Good fellowship and common ambitions were the normal features of Hindu-Mohammadan relationship in several parts of India. The cordiality which prevailed in the 17th and 18th Centuries between the great founders of my family and the Hindu Community of the time has been transmitted from generation to generation, and to-day under the ægis of the benign rule of Sir Sri Krishnarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Mysore, the present members of the family are flourishing in peaceful avocations and in trade as did their valiant ancestors in the armies in Poona and Bijapur.

Marriage of Peer Mohammad Sahib.--- In 1798 A.D., one day when Srimanth Purniah, the Minister, visited the prison, Peer Mohammad Sahib and his ^{brother} ~~son~~-in-law laid their grievances before him, and they were set at liberty. Shaik Sultan Sahib went back to Shanoor and Peer Mohammad Sahib went to Tanjore and married the daughter of Chand Khan Gori (Musahib)

to, His Highness the Maharaja of Tanjore), who was one of his relatives.

Contractor in the Army. After the fall of Seringapatam, the Mysore State came under the protection of the British Government, who restored the Hindu Dynasty to the throne of Mysore. His Highness the Maharaja Krishnarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur came to power, and Srimanth Purniah was made Naibius-Sultanath or Prime Minister. Peer Mohammad Sahib petitioned Srimanth Purniah requesting him to confer a post on him in the Mysore Military Service. He was ordered to wait on the Naibius-Sultanath at Mysore. So he left Tanjore on horse-back, and on his way he met with an accident and broke one of his forearm. It took him one year to reach the capital. As he was unfit for Military Service he was made a Contractor in the Mysore army. After a period of four years Peer Mohammad Sahib took to Srimanth Purniah the money advanced to him by the State for carrying on the work and the profits derived therefrom. This incident shows that the system of State-aid to trade and commerce existed in the old days of Hindu-Mohammadan Rule. The Naibius-Sultanath was very

much pleased with Peer Mohammad Sahib, and returned the whole amount to him.

Shaik Sultan Sahib. Shaik Sultan Sahib came to Bangalore and settled down there as a merchant.

CHAPTER II.

Introduction of Sericulture in Mysore.

The Mulberry Plant.— While one day Nawab Tippu Sultan was holding a durbar at Seringapatam, an ambassador from China presented him with a piece of Silk Cloth. The stuff was quite new to Mysore, and it was highly appreciated by the Sultan. He at once resolved to introduce the manufacture of silk in the Kingdom of Mysore, and sent two deputations, one to Bengal and the other to China. Some idea may be formed of the conditions of locomotion in that period of Indian History by the fact that the deputation from Bengal returned in four years, while that from China in 12 years. The cuttings of Mulberry got from Bengal and China were sent to Dhungur in Malavalli Taluk and Kunigal in the Tumkur District. These were the first beginnings of the Sericultural industry in the State. Cocoons that were reared were sent to Seringapatam and reeled into silk and woven into clothes. The silk industry was thus as in Japan, also in Mysore, under

the direct patronage and the special protection of the Rulers of Mysore.

The Sultani Kadi.—After the fall of Seringapatam all the indigenous industries suffered for a time. During the reign of His Highness The Maharaja Krishnarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur the III, Srimanth Purniah endeavoured to revive Mulberry cultivation and requested Peer Mohammad Sahib, the Contractor, to take Mulberry cuttings from Dhungur to Chennapatna Taluk and grow Mulberry and rear Silkworms there as he had the pre-vision to judge, that the future prosperity of the State depended a great deal on this important Industry. Peer Mohammad Sahib planted the cuttings and after overcoming the initial obstacles succeeded in growing Mulberry, rearing silkworms and reeling silk. Even to-day a variety of Mulberry is known in the State as the Sultani Kadi to commemorate the original distribution of cuttings by Tippu Sultan.

Extension of Mulberry Cultivation.—Srimanth Purniah granted a piece of land to Peer Mohammad Sahib in the village of Mogenahalli, five miles from Chennapatna, and even to-day this plot is in our possession.

The silk reeled in the village for the first time was only half a seer. Gradually the industry was taken up by the ryots in the vicinity as a result of Peer Mohammad Sahib's efforts and practical demonstrations.

Settlement at Chennapatna. - Seeing that the effort of the Naibius-Sultanath was fruitful and his own endeavours were crowned with success, Peer Mohammad Sahib shifted himself from the village to the old Makan at Chennapatna at the request of Syed Usman Shah Khadri, the then Makkandar of Syed Akil Shah Khadri Durga. Syed Akil Shah Khadri was the famous priest of Nawabs Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan. After some time, Peer Mohammad Sahib built a house on a site given to him by Syed Manjalay Shah Khadri, the successor of Syed Usman Shah Khadri.

Organization of the Silk Trade. - Peer Mohammad Sahib opened a shop in the Bazaar street to buy silk and dispose of the unsold goods of the contract days. In those days each class had its own profession and would not allow their classes to encroach upon its prerogatives. The class of people that were dealing in unsold articles objected to Peer Mohammad Sahib opening

a shop, unless it was permitted by their Headman. Peer Mohammad Sahib applied to the Naibius-Sultanath for help and that high authority wrote to the then Amildar of Chennapatna, Mr. Seshagiriah, in the matter. Peer Mohammad Sahib was not disturbed subsequently but he met with secret opposition. The matter was amicably settled by Syed Manjalay Shah Khadri.

Trade Monopoly. The contract articles were soon disposed of and the shop was closed in 1820 A.D. Thus we get an idea of the restrictions which then existed against people entering into any trade promiscuously. Each trade was the monopoly of particular classes or communities and any infringement thereof had to be sanctioned by the village headman or higher authority. But the dealings in silk continued, and from that day to this, silk has been and is the chief trade of our Firm. Peer Mohammad Sahib lived in Chennapatna from 1820 till his death in 1839 A.D. At the time of his death the Silk Ledgers stood thus :-

The Beginning of the Silk Trade.—The average quantity of raw silk prepared during the whole lifetime of Peer Mohammad Sahib, according to the family ledgers, amounts only to

one hundred maunds, valued at about rupees twelve thousand.

Currency.—In those days the currency was Hun equal to the present Rs. 3—8—0. One Hun was equal to 9 Falums. One Falum was equal to the present day 4 annas 8 pies. The actual price got in those days for 100 maunds of silk was 3.003 Huns and 4 Falums.

CHAPTER III.

Firm of Mohammad Mustan Sahib and Mohammad Hyder Sahib.

The Firm of Mohammad Ibrahim Sahib and Mohammad Hussain Sahib.—Peer Mohammad Sahib had three sons, Mohammad Ibrahim Sahib and Mohammad Hussain Sahib by his first wife, and Raza Hussain Sahib by his second wife, whom he married after the demise of the first. The silk business was taken up by the first two who made it a firm and it continued in the name of Mohammad Ibrahim Sahib and Mohammad Hussain Sahib.

Communal Traditions.—Both Mohammad Ibrahim Sahib and Mohammad Hussain Sahib had no issue for several years after their marriage. Their father Peer Mohammad Sahib was very anxious on that account and the family resorted to the usual prayers and charities which are commonly adopted by the Community for getting the blessings of the Almighty. Whenever Peer Mohammad Sahib visited Bangalore, he used to have the honour of seeing the well-known priest of the time, Hazarath Towkal

Mustan Sha Vali of the place whose Durga is to this day well-known in the State. Peer Mohammad Sahib used to reveal his ardent desire and to request him to pray God on his behalf. Hazarath Towkal Mustan Sha Vali presented Peer Mohammad Sahib with the two Silver Coins (called popularly Raja Ruppiah—'King's Coin') as a sacred token and requested him to keep them in the Firm's exchequer and prophesied the prosperity of the family and of the Firm. Even to-day these silver coins are carefully preserved in the Firm's Cash Chest. In course of time Mohammad Hussain Sahib was blessed with a son Mohammad Mustan Sahib in the year 1833 A.D. (1248 Hijira).

The Khillat from a Hindu Sowcar. - The Firm was so famous on account of the honesty and straightforwardness of both the brothers that on the occasion of the birth of Mohammad Mustan Sahib, one of the great Hindu Sowcars of Hyderabad (Deccan) named Basappa of Koripad, sent all the way from Rajolly, his native place, to Chennapatna, gold bangles worth about Rs. 1,000 with suitable Khillats in honour of the occasion.

Iron Factory at Hulgoor. -The youngest brother Raza Hussain Sahib, better known as Rajju Mian Sahib, managed an Iron Factory at Hulgoor, started in Malvalli Taluk, by Peer Mohammad Sahib. A number of blacksmiths worked under him. Extensive lands worth thousands of rupees were bought by him, and these are still a part of our family property.

Order from the Palace. -It may be a matter of interest to note that on the 31st December 1816. the Palace ordered iron articles from the above Firm through Manigar Subbiah. The order bears the gracious signature of H. H. the then Maharaja and the Seal of the Palace.

The Firm of Sowcars Mohammad Mustan Sahib and Mohammad Hyder Sahib. - Mohammad Ibrahim Sahib had no sons but Mohammad Hussain Sahib had three more sons, Mohammad Hyder Sahib, Mohammad Khasim Sahib and Mohammad Abdulla Sahib in addition to Mohammad Mustan Sahib. Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib was the founder of the Firm as it exists to-day. The silk business came under the control and guidance of Sowcars Mohammad Mustan Sahib and Mohammad Hyder Sahib.

Improvement in Silk Trade. - During the

time of Mohammad Ibrahim Sahib and Mohammad Hussain Sahib, the total quantity of silk purchased by the Firm was 25,000 maunds valued at 30 lakhs of rupees. The enormous development of Silk Trade in Chennapatna, from the one hundred maunds of their father's days was due mainly to the efforts of our family between the years 1254 and 1278 (Hijira).

CHAPTER IV.

The Rare Merits of Sericulture.

In the great famines of 1845-46, 1865-66 and 1876-77, the people who suffered least were those engaged in the silk industry. It is the peculiar merit of this industry that it gives work and wages for four distinct classes of workers, *viz.*,

- (1) ryots, who cultivate Mulberry ;
- (2) men and women, who rear silkworms ;
- (3) labourers, who reel the cocoons ; and
- (4) capitalists, who purchase silk and export it abroad.

The Mulberry plant is very hardy and does not require as much water as the main food crops, like paddy or garden crops. The plant will usually wither in the dry season and come up well after a few showers without being freshly planted. Therefore even when other crops fail, Mulberry will thrive fairly well and give occupation and wages to all the four classes of workers who are intimately inter-dependent on one another. Without the Mulberry plants,

silkworms cannot be reared. When the silkworms spin cocoons they have to be reeled in time. The reeled silk has to be purchased in retail or in bulk as it becomes available by the capitalist. The whole process takes only 30 to 40 days. There is no other food or industrial crop which will yield a return in money within the short space of 45 days and that continuously for about 7 or 8 months in the year, omitting the hottest and the coldest periods of about 3 or 4 months a year.

Messrs. Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib and Mohammad Hyder Sahib realizing fully the superiority of Sericulture from a purely economic point of view over all other crops, made a strenuous endeavour to send trained men with Mulberry cuttings to places where the silk industry was not in existence. Thus the industry was introduced successfully in all surrounding places and even at Chickmagalur in Kadir District, where cuttings were sent to one Mashayak Murshid Peeran Sahib, a celebrated Priest of the time, who was taking great interest in the economic development of the place.

CHAPTER V.

Banking Facilities.

System of Exchange.—In those days there were no Railways and the roads were often frequented by dacoits. It was exceedingly dangerous to carry cash from one place to another. Therefore merchants from Northern India brought Musk and exchanged this for Silk at Chennapatna.

The Bank of Damodardas Sait. Subsequently the celebrated Huzur Sowcar of Tippu Sultan, Mr. Damodardas Sait, had a bank between 1780 and 1820 A.D. at Seringapatam. He was a Multi-millionaire and even the Palace got accommodation from him at times. This Firm was in active correspondence with my ancestors all along and there are about 100 letters written to us by the Firm. The correspondence related to the purchase of Silk and Musical Wires, for the manufacture of which Chennapatna was once famous. Damodardas Sait, the Banker, used to cash the Hundis brought by merchants from abroad for the purchase of Silk. The Family of Damodardas Sait has now become

extinct and the charities and Foreign Scholarships founded in his name by the Mysore Durbar will commemorate his memory for all times to come.

History of Musical Wires.—One of the ancient Hindu Sovereigns of Mysore evinced a great interest in the development of Music and held a competition among the manufacturers of musical wires in the State. The artisans of Chennapatna won in the contest and were rewarded with a plot of land which was recently sold to our Firm by the artisans. From that time this industry took root at Chennapatna. In the days of Nawabs Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan, these artisans were removed to Seringapatam. Some time after the fall of Seringapatam, they were in straitened circumstances and were brought back by my ancestors to Chennapatna and were given the necessary encouragement. The wires manufactured by them were purchased by our Firm and sent to various parts of India.

Mangoomal Jessasing Sait.—Subsequently Hundis worth lakhs of rupees from the Presidencies of Bombay, Bengal and Madras and the Nizam's Dominions were cashed by our Firm

in the Bank started at Bangalore about 80 years ago, by Mr. Mangoomal Nundaramdas Sait, which is flourishing even to-day in Bangalore City under the name of Mangoomal Jessasing Sait. The development of trade in Silk was closely associated with facilities for the transport of money from various centres to Chennapatna. Therefore our Firm from the commencement did all in their power to provide and develop Banking facilities.

CHAPTER VI.

Our Firm's Aid to Sericulture.

D'Veeche, the Italian Silk Expert.— Early in the year 1865 A.D., Major D'Veeche opened a Silk Filature at Kengeri in the Bangalore District to improve silk reeling and introduce Italian seeds. He received frequent help from our Firm and the members of our family. This is testified to by his letters extracted here below and they were addressed to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib as “Silk Commissioner” in Chennapatna.

*Closepet,
6th August 1865.*

“I am arrived to-night in Closepet with the money you required. Please come at once and bring with you all the Silk you have purchased for me.”

*Bangalore,
24th August 1865.*

“Please buy for us 20 Maunds Silk, first quality at Bazaar price and to be delivered in Bangalore on the 2nd of September 1865 and we will pay your Bill.”

The Tata Silk Farm. Mr. J. N. Tata, the great patriot and the Captain of Industrial Revival of Bombay in particular and of India in general, thought of opening a Silk Farm in the Mysore State and consulted that most remarkable Statesman Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, the then Dewan of Mysore, in the matter. At this instance Mr. Bhabha, the then Inspector-General of Education, brought Mr. Tata to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib. After a long discussion with the Sowcar on the various aspects of the Silk Industry in Mysore, Mr. Tata was satisfied with the importance of the Industry and the possibilities of its unlimited development and resolved to take practical action on the information personally gathered by him. The Parsi Millionaire soon opened an Experimental Silk Farm in Basavangudi Extension of Bangalore City and placed it under the direct charge of Mr. Odzu, the Japanese Silk Expert, who was brought to Bangalore all the way from Japan. To Mr. J. N. Tata and the foundation he thus laid, belongs no small part of the credit for the present day revival of Sericulture in Mysore. It may be pardonable to state that Mr. Tata showed a

more lively and more sincere interest in the improvement of this valuable Industry than even the British Government when they were in direct charge of the State or the Government of His Highness the Maharaja soon after the Rendition. Though the Tata Silk Farm did not prove a financial success and though subsequently it was transferred to the Salvation Army by the descendants of Mr. J. N. Tata, there is no doubt that it has, for more than a quarter of a century, served eminently to demonstrate all the processes of Silk Manufacture from the cultivation of Mulberry plant right up to weaving superior silk fabrics, which even to-day find a sale among all classes, Indian and European.

Investigations of Mr. J. N. Tata.— The following letters of Mr. J. N. Tata addressed to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib will show what personal interest the illustrious Parsi Millionaire took in the details of Sericulture.

*Victoria Buildings,
Fort, Bombay, 11th October 1895.*

“I am in receipt of your letters of the 30th ultimo and 7th instant with the Parcel Receipt. The Parcel has arrived quite in time as our

“Steamer leaves for Japan to-morrow. You have not stated the cost of the Cocoons, etc. This is very important and you will kindly give me all the details of the cost including everything to be forwarded to Japan. On hearing from you the cost, I shall also be able to remit you the money. With many thanks.”

*Victoria Buildings,
Fort, Bombay, 12th October 1895.*

“In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, I beg you to be so good as to give me the following information in addition to the particulars of cost of the cocoons requested therein :—

(1) The expense of reeling and the exact quantity of the dried Cocoons sent by you (i.e., $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers reduced from 40 seers).

(2) The outturn of Silk from the quantity after reeling.

(3) The price realized from the sale of the Silk produced as above.

I am sorry to give you such trouble, but as I require all this information for my Agents in Japan, I am sure you will oblige me. Please also let me know what amount I have to remit to you.”

*Victoria Buildings,
Fort, Bombay, 21st October 1895.*

"I am much obliged for your favour of the 16th and 18th instant and your prompt replies to my enquiries.

I note from your remarks that the costs and proceeds of the silk extracted from the cocoons is as follows :-

Rs. A. P.

13-13--0 Proceeds of $3\frac{1}{4}$ seers of Silk from
one maund of Cocoons @ Rs. 4-4-0
per seer.

Less Rs. 12-4-0 Cost of one maund
of Cocoons.

1-1-3 Labour for Reeling
 $3\frac{1}{4}$ seers of Silk @
As. 5 per seer.

13--5-3

0--7--9 Balance.

If there is any mistake in the above calculation will you kindly point it out ?

As regards the Silk Waste, if you will send me a sample, I shall be very glad to make enquiries if it can be sold here and let you know the result.

I have remitted you by Money Order the amount due to you for the Cocoons. With many thanks and Salams."

*Victoria Buildings,
Fort. Bombay, 2nd November 1895.*

"I am in receipt of your two favours, dated the 30th October.

The Parcel of Silk Waste has come to hand. I am making the necessary enquiries about the waste and will let you know the result."

Despatch of Cocoons to Bombay. - On the 16th. October 1895 Mr. H. J. Bhabha wrote to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib, thus :-

"I am glad you have sent the Cocoons to Mr. Tata. I hope they have reached him, and he has acknowledged receipt. If you have not written to him about the cost, I will send you the cost. Please let me know. Thanking you very much for all the trouble you have so kindly taken."

Arrival of the Japanese Expert. -The following letters from Mr. H. J. Bhabha to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib, dated 4th. 6th and

9th March 1898, refer to the arrival of Mr. Odzu, the Japanese Silk Expert.

A.

“A Japanese gentleman who understands something about Silk Culture has been sent by Mr. Tata with me from Bombay. He wants to see the native methods of rearing silkworms, also mulberry cultivation and the native method of reeling. I should feel much obliged if you could arrange to show him these things at Chennapatna on Monday. I will send him with a letter to you by Sunday night’s train if you reply to this letter by return of post. As he does not know Hindustani, kindly arrange to get some one who talks English to explain everything to him. He will, in course of time, be useful to you in teaching the people of Chennapatna better methods and improving the value of the silk they produce. He will stay for a day in the Travellers’ Bungalow and proceed to Bangalore on Tuesday morning by the train that comes at about 4 A.M.”

B.

“The bearer is Mr. Odzu, the Japanese gentleman. Please show him everything of the native

methods of Silk Culture. He leaves for Bangalore at 4 P.M. on Monday."

C.

"Mr. Odzu has gone back to Chennapatna for three or four days to learn more of the native methods. If he wants your help, I hope you will kindly give it, especially give him the help of some one who knows English."

Help given to Mr. Odzu.—The timely help given by our Firm to Mr. Odzu has been acknowledged by him in his letters reproduced below :--

Lalbag,
Bangalore, 27th May 1898.

"As you know the first experiment of rearing silkworms having been over, I am requested by Mr. Tata to entertain the second experiment with the Native species under Japanese method. I should esteem it a greater favour if you kindly get me some Cocoons for the breeding of the next experiment from Chennapatna. I hope you will kindly write to your house there to select the best ones and put any expenses on this to my account which I shall pay you any time."

Bangalore, 4th June 1898.

"I have this day received a bag containing 257 Cocoons by the post for which prompt despatch, please accept my thanks. I hope you will kindly let me know what you have paid for the Cocoons so that I may pay to your Agent here. Again thanking you for your kindness."

Bangalore. 8th June 1898.

"I am very glad to inform you that the butterflies have made their appearance from the Cocoons that you have kindly sent me in last two days and some of them have laid down their eggs satisfactorily. I hope the eggs will be hatched a week hence.

I beg to state that I have had conducted the last experiment with a Closepet Breed and then Mulberry leaves and the result of which has been reported to Mr. Tata. My plan for the next experiment is to try the Chennapatna Breed and it is my object to compare the result with that of the previous one.

My present requisition is for the Mulberry leaves, which I would suggest your kindly arranging with a supplier on the contract system.

A parcel of the leaves is to be delivered at the Railway Station every evening in good time for its regular despatch to my address here as it has been arranged for the last experiment at Closepet.

The fluctuating quantity of leaves, which bases upon the worms: turning out from about one-third of the Cocoons sent by you and the selection of the quality, I trust you will kindly ascertain by your long experience accordingly. In the meantime, I shall write to you when the supply should be commenced; as for the beginning of the experiment I can get some leaves from the new Plantation in the Lalbag. To give you an idea as to the probable cost of the above details, I may say that the contract was accepted at Rs. 15 by a supplier at Closepet for forty days' leaf supply to the last experiment, which started with the worms from more than 500 Cocoons. The above charge did not intend to cover the Railway expenses which have had paid for. I shall thank you to consult with one of your gardeners in proportionally with the former cost and favour me with an early reply to what one reasonably offers for the supply.

There is only a short while for the hatching of the eggs that are now with me. May I therefore solicit the favour of your kindly doing the needful.

Thanking you in advance and apologizing for troubling you in the midst of your important business."

Bangalore, 13th June 1898.

"Since I had the pleasure of addressing you last on the 8th instant, I am in receipt of your kind favours, dated the 8th and 11th instant.

I am very sorry to know that in spite of your kind efforts on my behalf towards procuring a leaf supplier, you were unable to give me a favourable acceptance. The leaf of this experiment, I shall arrange to get from the former place as suggested by your goodness.

Thanking you for your kindness and kind advice given on my future arrangement."

Bangalore, 12th Sept. 1898.

"Having partly finished my work here I shall most probably leave this for Chennapatna on the 14th instant to make an experiment of

silk reeling with native cocoons as suggested by you, when Mr. Tata had an interview with you the other day. I should feel much obliged if you kindly assist me in making necessary arrangements for the purpose and also inquire for reelers and material."

Lalbag,
Bangalore, 27th Oct. 1898.

"Confirming my respect of the 18th instant. I trust you will pardon the liberty I take in writing to you, if you will oblige me with a favour of replying to my request regarding the purchase and despatching of 30 seers hand-spun silk at the lowest price on my account. The business having been urged from Bombay Office, I shall thank you to execute the order by your earliest convenience."

Bangalore. 21st Dec. 1898.

"I shall feel much obliged by your informing me by the return post, whether 50 to 80 maunds raw cocoons of superior quality can be purchased now, if so, at what price and otherwise what is the largest quantity that can be had at a time with all particulars.

Please let me know in detail how is the plague on your side and also that if the Silk business and Sericulture are in any way affected by the plague trouble.

I am very glad to inform you that plague is rapidly subsiding in City and that many shops have been re-opened. I hope in short time you will resume business in your branch store here, if the present condition of the City should last or improved.

Hoping you will reply to my inquiry by your earliest convenience."

Bangalore, 28th Dec. 1898.

"I am in receipt of your post card of the 26th instant. I am sorry to see that no response to my inquiry as to the price and quantity of raw Cocoons (approximately) obtainable on your side, etc., was favoured in the same.

I hope in the returning post, you will kindly write me again on my request minutely. Hoping to be excused for giving you so much trouble."

Lalbag,

Bangalore, 28th February 1899.

"Will you please buy about 100 breeding Cocoons of best quality and send them on to me

per sample post or V. P. Post? In order to avoid damage of the cocoons in the way, I would suggest you that you had better get them securely packed in a small paper or in the box, allowing one or two holes for ventilation for which I shall be glad to pay.

Hoping this will not occasion you any trouble."

Bangalore, 28th May 1899.

"I have this day received a post card, dated at your place and addressed to me without a sender's name but the card being written apparently by your handwriting, I guessed that it has been forwarded to me from you.

Regarding the price of Cocoons, I am much thankful to you for having reduced it to Rs. 11½ per maund. At this rate the cost of 46 seers Cocoons I have purchased from you the other day would come to Rs. 13—3—7 instead of Rs. 13—6—6 as stated in your post card.

I shall therefore thank you to let me know, by return of the post, if the sum of Rs. 13—6—6 included any other item besides the cost of Cocoons and if so, kindly inform me with its particulars and also please let me know where you like the money to be remitted to.

We had rather heavy showers of rain and we feel a little cool now. I thank you very much for your kindness of asking our health and am glad to say that Mr. Nemoto and I are keeping good health and hope you are the same. With best wishes and best compliments from Mr. Nemoto."

The Sassoon and Alliance Silk Mill, Bombay.
The Sassoon and Alliance Silk Mill Co., Ltd., Bombay, wrote to Messrs. Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib and Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib, as follows:--

Bombay, 16th Oct. 1906.

"Your letter of the 1st instant duly to hand, contents of which have had our attention.

The three cases of sample silk sent by you were also received in order. We note that the cost of this has come to Rs. 416--8--0, but you have to deduct from this the railway charges paid by us here. According to the receipt sent by you, namely, Rs. 7--8--0 as the rate that was settled by your man was for delivery in Bombay including all charges.

The silk was tried at the Mill and we find that the No. 3 is only little better in the whole lot. This can be used if prepared with a little

more care. The defect in the silk is that the threads are not even ; they must be uniform throughout the whole skein, size is alright, but should be a little stronger. If you could prepare this silk as stated above and sell at Rs. 14½ per seer of 72½ tolas delivered in Bombay including all charges, we will buy about 5 bales, each bale weighing 2 maunds or 80 seers, delivery in Bombay in two lots, the first lot within 15 or 20 days. To avoid misunderstanding we have this day forwarded to your address, per sample post a small skein out of your No. 3 which we trust you will find in order."

Bombay, 24th Oct. 1906.

"Your letter of the 21st instant duly to hand and we gather from it that you have not understood our requirements. We do not require that the thread should be made thicker, as you say, but let the size remain as it is. What we want is that the thread should be uniform throughout, that is, should not be thicker or thinner in some places as we find in the sample, but must be of one size throughout. You can send one maund of this at Rs. 14—8—0 delivered in Bombay and on receipt of the same.

if we find it satisfactory, we might send you further orders, but we do not think we can pay more than Rs. 14 8-0.

As desired, we herein enclose currency notes for Rs. 405 and postage stamps for Rs. 4-15-0 in payment of the cost of the samples received from you, which we trust you will find in order. We also enclose a receipt for same, which sign and return."

The Quality of Mysore Silk.—Messrs. Haslim Arif Brothers & Co. of Bengal Silk Mills Company, Calcutta, wrote as follows to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib and Sowcar Hyder Sahib, Chennapatna, dated 11th March 1907 :—

"Your favour of the 1st January last reached us in due course and also the 10 seers of silk sent to us per V. P. Post.

We are waiting for the result of your silk and now we are in a position to say that your reeled silk will not suit any good silk manufacturer for two reasons, (a) the unevenness and size of the silk ; (b) the bad reeling, full of dirt."

Calcutta, 2nd April 1907:

"We are in receipt of your favour of the 17th instant and note its contents: As your place

is so very far from here we do not see how we can improve your silk without sending our men to your place to teach your reelers. This will take a good deal of time, besides we can know very little of your Cocoons.

Can you send us your best Cocoons sufficient to produce about 40 lbs. of silk to enable us to give a fair trial to your Cocoons."

The Gadwal Silk Market.—Gadwal in the Nizam's Dominions is a great Silk Market. Our Firm has been supplying silk to the merchants there for the last nearly 90 years. The late Rajah Saheb of Gadwal Samastan, Raja Ram Bhupal Bahadur, being struck with the benefits derived by his ryots from the silk supplied by our Firm, sent his Musahab Mohamed Burhanuddin Sahib to Chennapatna to thank our Firm on his behalf and to invite Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib to pay a visit to Gadwal. Accordingly Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib went to Gadwal in the year 1313 Hijira (1895 A.D.) and remained as a Guest of the Raja Saheb. The munificence of the Ruler of Gadwal may be judged from the fact that he presented the Sowcar Sahib in open Durbar a Khillat consisting

of two pieces of laced cloth, two shawls and a laced turban. The Rajah also provided Scwcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib with all articles of consumption sufficient for 100 persons.

Dr. Gorio on Sericulture.—The following acknowledgment made in the lecture delivered by Dr. Gorio, the then Italian Consul of Bombay at the Y. M. C. A., Bangalore City, on Saturday the 18th March 1914, at a Public Meeting under the presidency of the late Mr. H. V. Nanjundiah, M.A., M.L., C.I.E., deserves to be preserved for permanent reference. To me it is especially valuable for the following spontaneous acknowledgment by Dr. Gorio.

“Fifty years ago Signior D’Veeche, another Italian Expert, came to Chennapatna and received help from the members of the Mustan Family whose members are yet taking the lead in the Silk Trade.”

CHAPTER VII.

Activities of the Brothers.

The Taluk Headquarters.—The Taluk Headquarters was removed from Chennapatna to Closepet in the year 1872, in the days of the British Commission. Consequently Chennapatna lost a good deal in prestige and prosperity, and the population began to decrease. Sowcar Mustan Sahib took up the subject and waited on the authorities as often as possible to restore the town to its original importance. In the year 1889, he had the good fortune of paying his respects to His Highness the late Maharaja Sri Chamaraja Wodeyar Bahadur of immortal and revered memory and prayed for the restoration of the Taluk Headquarters. His Highness was pleased to remark that he had heard from the Dewan (Sir K. Seshadri Iyer) that the climate of the town was not good and that the people were mischievous. The Sowcar admitted the defects, but promised to do his best to introduce a better order of things so far as human endeavour could. His Highness then graciously proposed to consider over the matter. The Sowcar then approached Mr. V. P. Madhava

Rao, C.I.E., the then Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore, and finally the Dewan ; and the Government of Mysore transferred the Taluk to Chennapatna in the year 1890.

Water Supply to Chennapatna.--In the year 1883, Sowcar Mustan Sahib built 5 Karanjis, (small water reservoirs connected by the pipe system) at Chennapatna in central localities to help both the Hindu and Mohammadan women who had to carry water every day from a great distance. He also built a beautiful reservoir in the Jumma Masjid, which exists even to-day.

Daira Hindustani School.--The Institution started by the community and supported by public subscriptions had to be closed by mismanagement half a century ago. The Mohammadan boys were simply wandering and wasting their time. Sowcar Mustan Sahib made the acquaintance of Mr. ~~B. L. Rice~~, the then Director of Public Instruction in Mysore, and after strenuous efforts of several years, persuaded him to open a Government Hindustani School in the year 1880.

English Education of Mohammadan Boys.--Sowcar Mustan Sahib, though himself not acquainted with the English language, had the

wisdom to estimate its great value to the Mohammadan community and did not spare all possible efforts to persuade the members of his faith to give education to their boys. In his time the entire Mohammadan community, not only in Mysore but in all parts of India, had an aversion to English education, lest it should make Mohammadan boys lose confidence in their own religion. This opposition on the part of his co-religionists he overcame by his convincing arguments and generous assistance and was successful in inducing a number of Mohammadan boys to join the English Boys' School. Subsequently at his instance, Mr. Bhabha, the then Educational Secretary, appointed a Mohammadan Munshi in the Boys' School to help the boys of his community and later on when a good number of boys reached the Middle School Standard, his next move was to raise the School to the High School Standard. He had to contend against several difficulties as there were Colleges and High Schools in Mysore and Bangalore within a few hours' journey from Chennapatna. But so persistent was the Sowcar in his representations to Mr. Bhabha and to the Dewan Sir K. Seshadri Iyer that he won at last.

Chennapatna High School. On the 4th April 1891, Mr. H. J. Bhabha wrote the following letter to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib :--

“You will be glad to hear that the Chennapatna English School has been raised to the Grade of a High School. The Municipal Funds are low and there were considerable difficulties in getting the Board to sanction the extra expenditure. I hope you and other well-to-do merchants of Chennapatna will take a lively interest in the School and provide funds by private subscriptions towards the cost of Scientific Apparatus, which it will be necessary to purchase soon for the School. I hope you will also kindly exert your influence in the surrounding Taluks and make the School popular so that a large number of boys may be attracted to it.”

To the above Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib replied as follows on the 8th April 1891 :--

“I am in receipt of your favour of the 4th instant and I owe you many thanks for it.

The gratitude of the inhabitants and myself for your kindly complying with our request of making this School a High School is inexpressible.

As for the subscriptions for the purchase

of the Scientific Apparatus for the use of the High School here, I shall try my best endeavours not only to bear a part of the cost myself but also make other people to do the same. I shall also try my best to get boys for the High School from the surrounding Taluks. A large number of children of this place are about to join the lower classes of the English School, but they are only waiting for the expiry of the summer vacation. I shall, however, write to you again about the happy collection of subscription funds."

Mr. Abdul Rahman Sahib, late Councillor of the State, and the then Deputy Commissioner of Shimoga, in his letter dated 20th April 1891, wrote as follows to Sowcar Mustan Sahib: (The original is in Hindustani and the following is a translation):—

"With your efforts and Mr. Bhabha's help, Chennapatna English School is now made a High School. I am glad to hear this happy news. I hope that you will work hard and see that Muslim boys of your place are largely benefited by it. Sunni boys and Mahadevi boys should all be treated alike. All sects of

Muslims should be educated. That is our object. Religious fanaticism is useless. Religion is purely a matter between man and God. The whole community is poverty-stricken. Its advancement must be the aim of every Muslim. No one is equal to you in wealth. So I hope that you will not refuse to help the poor boys. The best prayer is to spend money in the cause of education. No other work is more sound than this."

Scientific Apparatus.—Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib subscribed Rs. 300 in December 1891 for purchasing Scientific Apparatus for the High School.

Half-fees.—In the Municipal High School the concession of half-fees to the Muslim boys was not allowed. This concession was also obtained through the Sowcar's exertions.

Hospitality to Students.—He then desired to have Chennapatna as a Centre for the Lower Secondary Examination. He approached Mr. Bhabha. But there was opposition from other schools in the vicinity, which complained that their boys when they went to Chennapatna

had not facilities of boarding and lodging. The Sowcar took on himself the responsibility of making the necessary arrangements for the comforts of the boys.

The following letter of Mr. Bhabha to the Sowcar, dated the 18th January 1893, refers to the charitable disposition of my uncle which was his predominating characteristic all through his life : --

“I have heard with great satisfaction that you and other merchants and Sowcars have treated with great hospitality all the candidates that appeared at the Chennapatna Centre for the last Lower Secondary Examination. I shall be glad if you will kindly convey my best thanks to all the gentlemen who co-operated with you and accept them yourself for the great and active interest you take in the advancement of higher education in your town.”

Mr. Bhabha in his Education Report of 1894-95 writes thus :—“The speciality of the Chennapatna High School is that 37 Muslim boys were reading. Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib, a leading merchant and other merchants with

their own expenses made very good arrangement for the boys of other schools who had taken Chennapatna as their Centre for the Lower Secondary Examination."

Mysore Durbar.—In the year 1895, Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib received an invitation from Gadwal on the occasion of the Installation of the present Rajah of Gadwal. As simultaneously an invitation was received from the Mysore Durbar in connection with the auspicious event of the Installation of His Highness the present Maharaja of Mysore, Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib did not go to Gadwal and as a loyal subject of the Mysore Raj, considered it his bounden duty to be present at Mysore on the occasion. The Mysore Durbar assigned to the Sowcar a respectable position. He was a member of the District Board and of the Mysore Representative Assembly. He was honoured with invitations from the Palace on all auspicious occasions. He was held in regard by successive Dewans, Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi, Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., and Mr. T. Ananda Rao, C.I.E. He was popularly known as the Grand Old Man of Chennapatna in his last days.

Coronation Durbar.—On the 1st January 1903, Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib attended the Delhi Coronation Durbar.

Hindu-Mohammadan Amity. - In June 1907, His Holiness the then Jagath Guru of Sringeri passed through Chennapatna on his way to Mysore. An address in Hindustani was presented to His Holiness on behalf of the Mustan Family and the Mohammadan Community by myself.

The following reply dated the 24th June 1907 from the Agent, Sringeri Mutt to Sowcar Mustan Sahib, will show how greatly my ancestors strove to mingle with the Hindu brethren in honouring His Holiness the Sringeri Jagath Guru :-

“Permit me to say that by associating your Hindu brethren with your last prayer invoking the blessings of His Holiness the Jagath Guru yesterday evening, you have done a great service in promoting the spirit of good-will and affection between both the communities, who, as you very aptly expressed, seemed to be desirous of emulating each other in their loyalty and devotion to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

His Holiness appreciates the spirit of your request to convey to His Highness the laudable sentiments expressed in your address."

The Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental College.---

On the 26th August 1905, the Mustan Family subscribed a sum of Rs. 100 to the Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh, for which a deputation had come to Chennapatna. The deputation brought the following letter from the late Sardar Dalavoy Devaraj Urs, the then Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore.

"The members of the Duty Deputation of the Aigarh College are visiting your place to collect subscriptions for a Scholarship Fund to help poor Mohammadan Students. I need not say that this is a very laudable object. I hope you will be glad to help them by yourself, subscribing and obtaining help from others. This is intended to further the progress of your community and as such I hope that every Mohammadan gentleman will join them in the good cause by subscribing to the Fund. I may also add that the Hindus have also subscribed to this."

A deputation headed by Mr. Mohammad Akter Adil Sahib came to Chennapatna in 1910 to collect funds for the College and Sowcar

Mohammad Mustan Sahib subscribed a sum of Rs. 500.

Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib's Noble Qualities. - On the 12th December 1910, Dewan Bahadur K. P. Puttanna Chetty, Member of Council, in a letter to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib, wrote as follows :-

"I have a high regard to you which dates from the time now nearly thirty years ago when I have known you. Your noble qualities have endeared you to one and all who have come in contact with you."

His Demise. He died in the year 1911 at the ripe old age of 82.

His Work for Sericulture. During his lifetime, the Sericultural Industry made appreciable progress. In the fifty years of his actual life from 1278 to 1329 Hijira (1861 to 1911 A.D.), the total quantity of silk purchased locally by him was $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of maunds valued at $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees.

His other Activities. - Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib's activities in directions other than Sericulture may be thus summarized :—

Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib contributed about five hundred rupees a year during

his lifetime to a number of Mosques both inside and outside Mysore. This assistance is even to-day continued.

During the Ramzan every year, he used to distribute clothes to the poor of all communities and creeds to the value of about Rs. 500.

He contributed about Rs. 3,000 for the extension of the Chennapatna Mosque.

The poor of all communities were sumptuously fed by him twice a year as long as he lived and he spent annually about Rs. 500 for this.

Appreciation of Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib. -On the 13th September 1911, Dewan Bahadur K. P. Puttanna Chetty wrote to me as follows :-

“I received last night your wire announcing the death of my old esteemed friend, Mr. Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib. He was known to me since my early Railway days and I have always entertained a high regard for his character and his good amiable qualities. He was a leader of both Hindus and Mohammadans and commanded the respect of both the communities. I have enjoyed his friendship for this long time and I am grieved to hear that he is no more. I beg you will accept for yourself

and convey to the members of your family my sincere condolences and sympathy in your bereavement. I am sure you will follow in his footsteps and keep his memory alive. May his soul rest in peace is the prayer."

Pradhan Siromani T. Ananda Rao, Esq., C.I.E., Dewan of Mysore, sent the following telegram to the Amildar of Chennapatna, dated 14th September 1911.

"Very sorry to hear the death of Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib. Please convey my condolences to his family."

On the 11th October 1911, Mr. Mir Humza Hussain Sahib, the then District Judge, Mysore, wrote to Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib in Urdu, of which the following is a translation :-

"The sad news of the death of your revered brother caused me much pain. He was a friend and well-wisher of mine. He bore a sincere love towards me. No doubt his death is a source of regret and a great calamity to you and to your family. But the loss the community has sustained by his (May peace be upon him) death is inexpressible. A gentleman greatly enlightened in ideas and a well-wisher of the community having great love at heart is very

scarcely to be found. The fact, that you, the embodiment of courteousness bearing deep devotion towards the community, are in the place of the deceased, gives us great consolation. We hope that you will walk in his footsteps and keep alive his memory. Please consider me a mourner with you and with Mr. Abdul Qaddus Sahib and my prayer is— May God give the deceased brother eternal peace : May God give you and your family patience and fortitude to bear the calamity.”

Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib.—During the lifetime of Sowcar Mohanmad Mustan Sahib, Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib co-operated with his brother and whatever success and financial prosperity the firm and the family achieved, were due to the perseverance and indefatigable industry of both the brothers.

Mr. (Sir) M. Visvesvaraya. Elevation to Dewanship.—On the 12th November 1912, Mr. (Sir) M. Visvesvaraya sent the following telegram to me :—

“Kindly convey to Chennapatna citizens my grateful thanks for the kind congratulations.”

This was in reply to the resolution passed at a Public Meeting organized at Chennapatna

in his house by Sowcar Hyder Sahib congratulating Mr. M. Visvesvaraya on his elevation to the Office of the Prime Minister to His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

Presentation of a Koran. Dr. Gorio's Assistant in a letter dated Bombay, 23rd April 1914, wrote to me as follows: "The bearer Mr. Mari's servant will give a miniature Koran which was left by our Doctor with instructions to send it on to your father. Kindly hand it over to him with Dr. Gorio's compliments and oblige."

His Highness the Yuvaraja's Visit to Chennapatna. On the 24th November 1914, the Private Secretary to His Highness the Yuvaraja, wrote to Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib as follows:--

"In reply to your letter, dated the 16th instant, I am directed to say that His Highness the Yuvaraja regrets he will not be able to go to your house in Chennapatna as the time at his disposal will not permit him to do so. If, on the way to the Hospital, you can arrange to pay your homage, His Highness will be pleased to accept it."

On the above occasion Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib presented the following Address:--

The Mustan Family.— In bringing the History of my Family to the notice of the esteemed Rulers (May God bless them) and Sires of the State, my humble object is just to tell the tale of the doughty deeds of a family that has initiated and has borne the brunt of the rough passages through which Sericulture has passed ; a family that stood for the Pioneers and in its later days faithfully and nobly succoured and saved for the State the Silkworm and Sericulture.

No touch of vanity shall stain the spirit in which my genealogy is set forth. neither will I try to disinter my ancestors' work when scarcely a hand or foot is left standing out from beneath the dust of ages. Whatever sacrifices they were capable of rendering to Sericulture throughout the entire expanse of the State will remain embalmed for ever in the pages of whatever history of Mysore might come to be written. Their faithful adherence to the Sericultural Industry itself shall still survive as an enduring monument of their greatness to remind the inheritors of the Kingdom of Mysore that such a house shall not be swept away forgotten and worn out without recognition.

The flourishing and prosperous Sericultural Industry of the State owes its inception in the Mysore State to my grandfather Peer Mohammad Sahib, who as early as the time of Srimanth Purniah was entrusted by that talented Seer to initiate the Industry in the Mysore Province, a trust faithfully carried out and kept up to receive the recognition of Merchant Princes and Experts of the type of Mr. J. N. Tata and Mr. J. Odzu, the Japanese Silk Expert.

My son Sowcar Fayaz M. Abdul Quddus who has the honour of rendering Honorary Services to His Highness' State as a Member of (1) The Economic Conference, (2) The Agricultural Committee of the Economic Conference and as District and Taluk Board Member and a Municipal Councillor, has made a particular study of the Industry and has often rendered voluntary and honorary services to the State, in his various humble capacities, an achievement so nobly appreciated by His Holiness the Jagath Guru and the Swami of Sivaganga and so admirably recorded by Dr. Drake E. Brockman, I.M.S., Residency Surgeon. He writes:--

“If my memory does not deceive me, I think you were much interested in Sericulture

and I am glad to think you are taking some practical interest in this matter and are on the Economic Board; if the gentry of this country would wake up and take a real active interest (not talking) in such matters and help their brethren by investing money in all such industries, this country would go ahead fast in prosperity and industry, in the latter of which I feel sure the future prosperity of this country is intimately bound up. I never lose an opportunity in furthering its interests in this way whenever opportunity offers: for my sympathies are with the ryots and the poor whose lot is capable of much improvement in many ways: but I think in this particular line lies their salvation and prosperity. I am glad to think you are at any rate trying to do your little best in that way."

In humbly presenting these few lines to our Protectors, I crave permission to introduce my son SOWCAR FAYAZ M. ABDUL QUDDUS to their esteemed notice so that when I am no more and Mother Earth has swallowed me I can depart in peace reposing in the satisfaction that the efforts of centuries of a Family and lastly of myself shall not have been in vain

and that they have received recognition at the hands of my Masters and the Royal Family we cling to.

I am Your Gracious Highness' Most
Humble Servant.

SOWCAR MOHAMMAD HYDER SAHIB.

Chennapatna.

His Highness the Yuvaraja made a reply in Hindustani to the above, expressing his pleasure at seeing the members of the family and promised to communicate their loyal sentiments to His Highness the Maharaja.

Address to Sir M. Visvesvaraya. On the 20th March 1915, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the then Dewan of Mysore, visited Chennapatna. On that occasion Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib presented the following address on behalf of the Mustan Family :

RESPECTED SIR.

Pray permit me, a line of Welcome from the Scion of an Ancient Family of Mysore. Coming of a stock domiciled in the Province from the earliest associations of the British Raj with the illustrious Family of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur and being a Member of that

chosen family to which was entrusted the care and commercial prosperity of thousands, by that talented Prime Minister Srimanth Purniah. I beg you to accord me the unique honour of welcoming your gracious self on this occasion.

The credit of having been the Pioneer of Sericultural Industry in Mysore and among those that rallied to the aid of the well-wishers of the State falls to my venerable ^{great-}grandfather, Peer Mohammad Sahib. During successive stages of the development of this Industry in Mysore, we rubbed shoulders with its various exponents and the practical experience that has accrued to us, has stood the test of time and scrutiny with a rigour that still remains unsurpassed. When disease had courted away the capacity of the rearing worms, we laboured for seven successive years to arouse the activity necessary to combat it. In the Official Chambers our voice long remained inaudible.

Not till your honour had visited us and discussed the question of the Silk Industry with the characteristic statesmanlike shrewdness, did we discover a sympathetic ear and to me has fallen again the unique honour of welcoming you in your capacity as the Spokesman

of our wants and interests. You, Sir, have shown to us one and all in the State what intellectual intensity and keen insight and interest you can evince for the uplift of those who have the pride to be the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur. Under your care, days of decadence have disappeared and the promised periods of prosperity and self-support have stepped in with a bold front justifying their ingress with visible signs, activity and advancement in every crevice and corner of our State.

Realizing all that you have done for us and as my humble contribution towards this magnificent endeavour I had taken the liberty of offering a site of land for purpose of Sericulture some time ago. I beg to say we are one and all anxiously waiting for its acceptance.

I, on behalf of the Mustan Family, extend you this Welcome in the full hope that you will be pleased to accept it as pregnant with love and devotion to your esteemed self.

Kindly convey to His Highness our beloved Maharaja Bahadur, our respectful regards with the confident assurances that we, among the subjects of Chennapatna, continue prosperous

in peace and happiness and pray for eternal blessings to one and all of the Royal Family.

With this humble testimony of devotion and love.

I beg to subscribe myself
as a Representative of the
MUSTAN FAMILY.

The Dewan replied expressing his gratification and promised to consider the acceptance of the land offered.

The Aligarh University. A deputation came to Chennapatna to collect funds for the Aligarh Mohammdan University and Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib subscribed rupees five hundred.

Meritorious Work in connection with the Economic Conference. -- On the 22nd November 1916, in their Order No. 3651 704- Ec. 16-16-1, Government published a list of the names of the gentlemen who were reported to have done meritorious work in connection with the Economic Conference, and Government were pleased to direct that their appreciation be conveyed to the gentlemen concerned for the work done by them.

The second name in the list is that of Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib and in the Column

“Nature of Work Done” the following observation of Government occurs:— “Has been of great help in Sericultural work and has recently made almost an unconditional gift to Government of about four acres of land with the buildings thereon for being utilized for establishing a Silk Demonstration and Seed Farm.”

Presentation of Khillats.— In the Dusarah Durbar of 1917, Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib was presented under the gracious orders and in the presence of His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur, a Certificate of Merit and Khillats.

Central Mohammadan Association, Bangalore.— On the 12th January 1919, a deputation consisting of Gulam Ahmed Kalami (President), Mohammad Abbas Khan Sahib (Secretary), Mohammad Hussain Baig (Vice-President) and Mr. Syed Abdul Khader came to Chennapatna on behalf of the above Association. Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib subscribed Rs. 500.

The Late Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib.— In January 1921, Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib died in his 87th year.

Appreciation of the Sowcar.—On the 26th January 1921, Mr. Mekhri, Personal Assistant to His Highness the Yuvaraja, wrote to me

as follows :— “With reference to your telegram of yesterday, I am directed to inform that His Highness the Yuvaraja regrets to learn the death of your father and to convey to you his heart-felt sympathies in your bereavement.”

On the same day Rajasabha Bhushana Dewan Bahadur Mr. K. P. Puttanna Chetty wrote to me as follows :

“I am sorry to hear of the death of your good old father Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib at the ripe age of 87. He lived a quite happy life and kept up the good name of your uncle the late Sowcar Mustan Sahib who was so much beloved by the people of those parts. Please accept my condolence and sympathy in your bereavement and convey the same to the other members of the Family.

It is my wish that you should maintain the reputation of your Family and earn a good name.”

On the 28th January 1921, the Private Secretary to the then Dewan, Sirdar Mr. (Sir) Kantharaj Urs, wired to me as follows :—

“Dewan hears with regret Sowcar Hyder Sahib is no more. He sympathizes with you in your bereavement.”

On the 31st January 1921, Mr. M. Shama Rao, M.A., Retired Inspector-General of Education in Mysore, wrote to me as follows :--

“It is with very great regret that I heard the news of your revered father's death. That he lived to a good age bears testimony to his good moral habits and abstemious character. In him you have an example for guidance and I am sure he will be long remembered in Chennapatna. You and all the members of the Family have my sincere condolences.”

On the 1st February 1921, Mr. C. R. Reddy, the then Inspector-General of Education, wrote to me as follows :-

“It was with feelings of the greatest regret that I received the news of your revered father's death. The only consoling feature is that he has died at a splendid old age and while his son is maintaining the good name and traditions of the Family in a manner worthy of the highest praise. Let me convey to you my sincere condolences.”

On the 3rd February 1921, Mr. K. R. Srinivasiengar, the then Revenue Commissioner, wrote to me as follows : -

“I am very sorry to hear of the death of your esteemed father and request you to accept my sincere condolence with you in your bereavement.”

On the 16th February 1921, Mr. Mir Humza Hussain Sahib, Member of Council, wrote to me as follows :

“I was extremely sorry to hear of the sad death of your revered father and my old and respected friend Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib. The deceased was a gentleman of the old school, the like of which we hardly see now-a-days. His gentle manner, his kindly disposition and his peace-loving nature commanded respect from one and all. Our community has suffered a great loss by his death. It is a matter of consolation to us all that he died full of age and honours. I hope you will continue the traditions of the Family and maintain its name and prestige. I need not say that I quite sympathize with you in your loss. Please convey my sympathy and condolences to other members of your Family.”

The Firm's Output.—In the days of Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib from 1911 to 1921 (1329–1339 Hijira), the output of silk purchased by our Firm was 20 thousand maunds valued at 70 lacs of rupees.

CHAPTER VIII.

My Humble Activities.

My Education.—I was educated in the Chennapatna High School and subsequently in the Central College, Bangalore, upto the F. A. Standard. On the 14th June 1899, Mr. J. Cook, the then Principal of the College, writing to Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib, referred to me as follows :—

“I hope your nephew will become a good student and give you and me both much satisfaction. He is behaving excellently and has every appearance of becoming a promising student. I do wish that more Mohammadans would take advantage of the excellent facilities for education that they have now-a-days especially in the State of Mysore, so that more of them may rise to fill good posts in the country.”

I left the College in the year 1900 at the age of 21 and joined my Firm in 1903 and I was assisting my father and uncle.

Chennapatna Municipality.—I was elected a Councillor of the Chennapatna Municipality in 1905 and I have always retained my seat therein

as such. In the year 1918, I was appointed by Government Vice-President of the Municipal Council.

Trip to Calcutta.—In the year 1907, there was a fierce outbreak of Pebrine among the silkworms in Chennapatna, and I went to Calcutta with the help of the Dewan Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., who was also then in Calcutta. I had an interview with Messrs. Hashim Ariff Brothers and discussed with them possible remedies and submitted a report to the Government.

His Holiness the Shivaganga Swamy.— In August 1910, I was invited by His Holiness the Swamy of Shivaganga to attend the Sri Shara-damba Prathista (Installation of the Goddess of Learning). I then presented him with the following address of congratulation which His Holiness and his large mass of Hindu disciples appreciated very much :—

To

His Holiness Sri Subrahmanyabhinava
Satchidananda Bharathi Swami of
Shivaganga.

“ May it please Your Holiness,

The whole world was brought into existence
for the sake of Mohammad (Be peace on Him)

the last Prophet of God, the Almighty, to Whom alone praise is due. He selects from among his millions of servants one on whom devolves the management of the worldly affairs and in whose hands are left the lives and properties of thousands of men. This selected one will always remain under the guidance of God. In fact, he will remain the very shadow of God. To us here, in Mysore, our good-natured, kind and noble-minded Ruler, His Highness Colonel Sri Krishnarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, G.C.S.I., remains this Shadow of God. (May He live long—Amen.)

Just as the material welfare of the people is left to the management of Kings and Rulers, their spiritual welfare is entrusted to religious teachers like Your Holiness, who has, by moral character and good nature displayed in all your acts, elicited the love and regard of not only the section of which you are the Head, but of all castes and creeds.

To-day's grand celebration has for its object the defining of the distinction between the animate and inanimate world. It is intended to show how education enables men to put on the garb of humanity and to-day the Goddess of

Education (Sri Sharadamba) takes her consecration at Your Holiness' hands.

May God make this hour most auspicious to our Country.

Before I take leave of Your Holiness I earnestly beg to offer my heart-felt thanks for according to me the privilege of attending this august Assembly and permit me also to add that two events, one that of presenting myself before the presence of His Holiness the Jagadguru and the other the present one will always remain memorable in the history of my life."

His Holiness gave me a Khillat and expressed his satisfaction at the Mohammadan community co-operating with the Hindus. What gave gratification to His Holiness was my humble reference to His Highness the Maharaja.

Member of Economic Conference.—In the year 1911 when the Economic Conference was formed by Government, I was made a member and subsequently a place was assigned to me in the Agricultural Committee where I continued till 1918. In the Birthday Conference of 1912, I made the following suggestions for the improvement of Sericulture :—

“Except for the importance of the subject, I should have included this item in my previous remarks. But Sericulture is not an industry that can lightly be disposed of. It is a very important industry—this Sericulture ; and among the various methods of improvement I could suggest from my experience, one is the holding of Exhibitions exclusively for Silk and its various stages of culture and production and the improved supply of good seeds to the ryots.

A general impression seems to have got abroad among the authorities that it is better to get seed from foreign countries. This would be a serious mistake in that it would not only not improve the state of affairs, but would bring in additional troubles in the shape of fresh diseases. Mr. Odzu, who was lately in Tata's Firm, in the starting of which, Messrs. Mustan and Hyder Sahib have rendered all possible assistance to the late Mr. Tata, says that Mysore Seeds are the best seeds. It may be that we may take seeds from South China, but there is a disease, *pebrine*, prevalent there and it is dangerous to import that disease. We are only having a disease originated from mulberry leaves which disease can be removed by

giving a sufficient supply of water and distributing seeds after examination. For this purpose, I had asked the Provincial Secretary to allow the services of an Inspector and a Seed Depot for a big centre as Chennapatna. This will help the ryots a good deal. Accordingly he allowed an Inspector and the necessary instruments, etc., have also been got down and the work will begin soon. This is the right way of improving the industry and not the appointment of officers and subordinates who can do nothing. And the publication of pamphlets, books, etc., is useless in that way. They do not reach the ryots, the major portion of whom are still illiterate. It is the ryot that must be approached. And no better way of approaching the ryot can be suggested than that of holding Exhibitions in such centres where ryots can be collected in large numbers. It may be asked why Silk Exhibitions should be held while the whole production is exhibited at the Annual Dasara Exhibition. My contention is that the ryots do not get the advantage of those exhibitions. Ryots do not belong to the fashionable upper class and they are neglected. Hence my request to hold Silk Exhibitions mainly

intended for ryots and worked in such a way as to put the thing clearly before them. It may also be mentioned that our ryots know things better in their own way. They may be ignorant of the modern methods and perhaps of the jaw-breaking scientific names. It is thus easy to put them right when they are wrong. The only necessary thing is to get into touch with them in a spirit of co-operation. We know them only when we get into close touch with them --1911-1912."

Subsequently I sent the following letter to the Chairman, Industries and Commerce Committee, offering my services:--

"As this Committee is aware the Economic Conference has it in contemplation to take in hand immediately the work of improving some of the most important industries of our Province. One of those industries to which close attention is being paid by this body is, as you know, the Silk Industry which is and has been the source of a large income to the State.

The Conference may have, by this time, found out from official enquiries made that Chennapatna is the seat of Silk Industry in the Province contributing as it does nearly 30 per

cent of the total trade in Silk in the whole Province. I may also say, of course, with a pride in view of the fact that we have been the Pioneers of this Industry in the Province, that nearly half of the trade of Chennapatna is in the hands of the Firm of Messrs. Sowcar Mustan and Hyder Sahib, of which I have now the honour of being the senior partner. Thus it practically comes to this ; that a quarter of the huge Silk Trade in Mysore is in our hands. The remaining portion is scattered all over. From these facts you can well gauge the amount of interest we must have bestowed on this Industry, and as such I claim a prior consideration to the following propositions I now place before this Conference in the best interests of this Industry :—

1. It is now proposed by this Conference to send one or two men from the Province to study the question of Sericulture as it exists in the various parts of India including Cashmere and Bengal.

2. This is no doubt a laudable idea and as a Member of the Conference and more particularly as a Sericulturist, I heartily approve of it.

3. I have, however, to make some suggestions

and I trust they will not be unwelcome to the Conference.

4. First and foremost it must be our aim, to spend the minimum amount and get the maximum result. It would end in nothing if the Conference proposes to send any one with absolutely no knowledge of Sericulture and I do not think, in the interests of the Conference, that there are many who can pretend to anything like a fair knowledge of Sericulture.

5. In respect of this Industry the first thing one has to enquire into is the various diseases of silkworms in other parts of India and to find out exactly what troubles our silkworms. A small with some practical knowledge of the industry would do better in this work than one who might have earned superficial knowledge from books.

6. Next come the various processes by which Sericulture could be made to yield more income as a cottage industry for our womenfolk. For this, steps should be taken to get down two or more families from other places to teach the poor women the following :—(a) re-reeling silk ; (b) making huri (fibres) ; (c) bleaching ; (d) dyeing ; (e) weaving.

7. Informations on these and other cognate points can only be secured by stepping at the chief centres of Silk Trade in India. A leading merchant in Silk will have greater facility in this respect.

Having pointed out the various things on which information should be gathered, I beg to submit that I should be happy to tour all over the country as a Representative of the Conference without much expense which otherwise it will have to incur. My claims to go out on tour on behalf of the Conference are as follows :-

1. I am a Member of the Conference and am a leading merchant and have bestowed a close study on the subject.

2. My Firm has got large dealings with over 150 centres of Silk Trade in India and I have already said we hold the bulk of the trade of the Province in our hands. I can secure all necessary information from the ryots and the traders in a quiet and unobtrusive way.

3. I can easily get down family of Sericulturists from other places to teach our womenfolk the various processes of improving this cottage

industry. I can also give them houses to live in rent free for a year.

4. Having already had a fairly good knowledge of Sericulture, I can easily study the process of microscopical examination and can be of use to this Conference to teach others the same for a little or no consideration. .

5. Other things which the Conference may want me to study I can more easily do than others, having already had a grounding in the various aspects of this industry and whatever knowledge I may gain I can with better facility spread among the ryots of the Province.

I have at the outset said that as far as possible it should be the attempt of the Conference to spend less and gain more. Therefore as a sort of personal sacrifice, I should make myself ready to go mostly at my expenses, the Conference only paying me the usual trainage and batta to non-official members of the Conference. I would find the expenses of my own servant and I want the Conference to pay his third class trainage. In addition, I require a peon of the Conference to attend to my quasi-official duties as a deputy of the Conference, his trainage and usual batta being paid by the Conference.

I may also say that outside Mysore, Cashmere stands almost first as the seat of the Silk Industry in India and it is in that country and in the adjacent places of Northern India that an enquirer, after information on Sericulture, should spend most of his time. In Cashmere, as you know, the official language is Persian and I may, without undue presumption, say that my knowledge of Persian will stand me in good stead.

By way of concluding I also beg leave to draw your attention to the following:—

(i) Para 17, Clause (b), Enclosure (b) of the Mysore Economic Conference Agenda for 1912. Para 2, Enclosure (c) of the Agenda for 1912. In addition I wish also to explain myself the question of Sericulture as the whole comes under almost simultaneously the Agricultural and Industries and Commerce Section. Till the making of the silk cocoons it remains under the former and from the state of reeling it comes under the latter. So I would request the Conference to allot the necessary funds for my tour for both the sections. Since the main portion of Sericulture comes under Agriculture, I do trust that the restriction made in para 2 of

Enclosure (c) in respect of non-officials will not be applied to me.

I have nothing more to add. I leave the proposal to your good sense of discretion."

I also addressed the following representation to the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, in 1912-13 :—

"At the time when His Highness the Maharaja Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar Bahadur, G.C.S.I., is graciously pleased to see his ryots in a more prosperous condition and on a higher level in education, assisted by such a wide-travelled, experienced, intelligent, highly educated and well-known statesman as Mr. M. Visveswaraya, B.A., C.I.E., who is at the head of the administration of Mysore and who is equally desirous to see the ryots on a far-higher level in respect of their education, financial condition, agriculture and industries, it is just the time for the well-wishers of the Province to come forward, make the best use of the opportunity and help the Government in achieving their object. With this object in view, I come forward to place myself at the disposal of the Government for the improvement of the Silk Industry in Mysore.

We have been dealers in silk for the last 100 years. The very honour of establishing the Industry in this Province lies with our family. This industry enables the greater bulk of the population of the Province to earn their livelihood and brings a great amount of wealth to the Province.

In those days when neither the Government were prepared to develop the industry nor the ryots were desirous to find out the means of its improvement, I saw Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, the then Dewan of Mysore, at Calcutta in the year 1907. I had a long discussion with him regarding the just begun silkworm disease and suggested to him that it was time for the Government of Mysore to direct their attention to it very soon and thus save the industry and the ryots. I also explained to him for the further improvement of the Silk Industry in the Province (1) the desirability of opening a Silk Waste Cleaning Factory, (2) the establishment of Silk Associations and the holding of Silk Exhibitions independently of others, (3) and the opening of a Bank to facilitate trade.

He thought over the suggestions deeply and expressed that they were very important

and would prove useful to the Province and that he would turn his attention to them.

The walk of time, however, was so slow that these things were put off for some time. But I spared no pains in trying to find out some remedy for the disease; for I knew that if it was not checked in its infancy there was greater fear of the Silk Industry disappearing from Mysore and the ryots, most of whom earn their livelihood by this means, suffering starvation. About 40 years ago, when a great famine carried away thousands of people, the least suffered among them were those that were engaged in silk. That such a lucrative industry should die out in this way for want of attention had a painful effect upon me and there was no separate department then for such things to be taken care of. I lost no opportunity whenever I came across Government Officers, whether Europeans or Natives, in placing before them matters as they stood then and requesting them to save the Country from the coming financial calamity until at last the time came when His Gracious Highness the Maharaja himself thought over the welfare of his subjects and commanded the opening of the Economic Conference by means

of which to gain his laudable object. A few months after the opening of the Conference, the honour of being one of its members was conferred on me also.

A few days before I became a Member of the Conference, Mr. Sambasiva Iyer, B.A., the then Secretary of the Industries and Commerce Committee, came to Chennapatna. Mr. B. Krishna Singh, the Amildar of Chennapatna, introduced me to him. He took down notes from me in which I asked him to place the following suggestions before the Government for early consideration.

1. The opening of a Bank.
2. The formation of a Silk Association.
3. The holding of Silk Exhibitions.

After I became a Member of the Conference, Mr. K. Subba Rao, B.A., the Secretary of the Agricultural Committee, came here and took a long statement of mine, the greater portion of which is published in his notes N.B. 11. I might briefly state here what I said to him :--
 "Sufficient supply of water is required for the well-growth of mulberry. With sufficient water ryots get from 6 to 8 crops a year, otherwise only 3 to 4. So in the year 1912 during the Birthday

Sessions, I placed before the Economic Conference (1) the Dasavar Tank Scheme for Chennapatna Taluk, (2) the improvement of our silk by removing knots and ununiformity, (3) the introduction of re-reeling, dyeing, bleaching, and weaving in our country.

Later on when Mr. Chatterton was made the Special Advisor to the Government of Mysore, he came to Chennapatna and had a talk with me. He was of opinion that Mysore might get seeds from France and Italy as the Government of Cashmere does. But I was dead against it for the following reasons:—(1) Mysore Silk has some peculiarities of its own, namely, (1) its strength, (2) its lustre, (3) its not losing much weight when bleached, (4) its weight. If foreign seeds are introduced these peculiarities of local silk will be lost.

Instead of getting foreign seeds, if we try to get our own seeds free from disease it would be a great advantage. In the year 1886, an Italian tried to export foreign seeds to Mysore at Kengeri, but failed. Mr. Odzu, a Japanese Silk Expert and Manager of Tata's Silk Farm after making several experiments, was of the same opinion as that of mine. But nobody

took notice of my words until the Italian Consul formed the same opinion.

Dr. Gorio, the Italian Consul, was at Chennapatna. When I had a talk with him he agreed with me and gave me his address to communicate with him in the matter. Recently the Assistant Italian Consul came to Chennapatna. He was of opinion to get a Silk Expert either from Italy or France. The Industries and Commerce Committee and the Agricultural Committee have also asked the Government to get a Silk Expert. I am against such an opinion for the following reasons :

An Expert that may come either from Japan, Italy or France is ignorant, in the first place, of the language of the country, the customs and habits of the people and the climate of the surrounding villages. After his arrival here he cannot move a step forward unless he is acquainted with those things. By the time he is able to understand all these things it will take a year or two. Thus there will be an additional expenditure of 20 to 25 thousand rupees to the Government. Instead of this, if our Government sends three or four qualified educated young men, some to Japan and some

to Italy or France, they may come back well trained in the same period of two years. To this the Italian Vice-Consul replied that instead of sending a number of young men to foreign countries, if an Expert were got and a regular Sericultural School were opened, some hundreds of boys in Mysore would be trained. But I argued that young men from Mysore to Japan, Italy or France would have the opportunity of seeing the various stages of growing mulberry, rearing silkworms, reeling, weaving and dyeing silk, etc., in those places. They would compare those methods with the methods of their own country and pay particular attention to the defects that lie with us.

After completing their course, they might go round the countries and see how the big filatures are managed there; know how Silk Associations are carried on and the principles on which business is carried on there and learn how the Governments of various countries help their ryots. With full experience of those things they return to Mysore and prove very useful to their country, just as the Medical, Forest, and Electrical Officers have come back to the advantage of our country.

They could help the ryots, could open flatures and could easily train hundreds of boys. Then the Vice-Consul said that he had very little time before him as he was on his way to Maddur, and promised that after reaching Bangalore, he would consult with Mr. K. Subba Rao, and wire to me to go there, where he said, we could discuss the subject at large. But I never heard anything from him afterwards.

After writing so much, I respectfully beg to bring to the notice of the officials that I am a very old merchant of silk. I depend on this trade for my living. I spent seven years in investigating silk affairs by visiting important Silk Centres in India at my own cost and gathered much experience. Nothing more than what I stated before Messrs. Sambasiva Iyer and K. Subba Rao has yet been investigated about silk though thousands of rupees of the Government have already been spent.

Lately Mr. Chatterton spent some thousands of rupees in buying cocoons for reeling good silk in Tata's Farm.

It is a matter to be considered whether, when the whole country is infected, crop after crop is failing, and the financial condition of the ryot

is becoming worse, and worse the getting of a few pounds of first class silk is useful in any way or whether it helps the ryot or the country in any way. Instead of spending time, energy and money in this way how nice it would have been if we had tried to find out :—

1. Why our silk is not sold in other markets ?

What are its remedies ?

2. Why our silk becomes costly ?
3. Our silk waste is sold for ten lakhs here ;
the same is sold for 40 lakhs in other
markets, why not we ourselves get this
price ?
4. The raw silk after going from our hands
undergoes many changes, such as re-
reeling, bleaching, dyeing, and weaving.
The wages paid for these processes come
to nearly the cost price of one seer of
silk for one seer, why not we try to get
these wages to our men ?
5. How to supply water to our mulberry
gardens ?
6. How to make “Mushruv”, “Gulbadan”,
“Damas”, “Velvet” and other silk
cloths, and also how to prepare lace ?
7. How to open seed depots and supply seeds
free from disease to ryots ?

If Silk Associations had been formed to remove disease from the silkworms in every village, weekly Meetings were held and Sericultural Inspectors directed to take part in them, speeches were delivered, improved scientific methods were shown to the ryots in their own places, examinations of the progress were made in every village by the higher officers regularly by personal visits (not by reports of subordinates) how useful these things would have proved ?

Even now nothing is lost. There is much more to be done. What I beg to say is that when the Government is bent upon improving the position of its poor ryots and is prepared to spend lakhs of rupees and make laws and regulations for this purpose, why not the officials, by whom the machine of the Government is put into motion, join with the leading experienced merchants and non-officials, having interest in various trades, till the officials are experienced in such matters, and both the officials and non-officials become one body for one common object ? It is only then that the prosperity and the financial development of the country is expected—1912-1913.”

The Bangalore District Board.— I was appointed in November 1912, a Non-official Representative on the Bangalore District Board by Notification No. 3249, L.R. 79-12-6.

Assistance to the Italian Consul, Bombay.— On the 20th May 1913, Mr. K. Subba Rao, the then Secretary to the Agricultural Committee, requested me to render all necessary help to Signor E. Stella, Assistant to the Italian Consul, Bombay, who went to Chennapatna to study all aspects of Sericulture. He added 'It is the Dewan's desire that all possible help may be given to Signor E. Stella in his work.'

Bank of Mysore, Branch, Chennapatna, 1913.— On the 30th December 1913, Mr. W. C. Rose, Manager, Bank of Mysore, wrote to me that at a meeting of the Board of Directors held on the 18th December, I was appointed Agent of the Bank of Mysore, Chennapatna. This appointment I have been holding all along.

Government Silk Rearing Room, Chennapatna.—The following Official Memorandum No. 657-3 dated 22/23 October 1914, from the Secretary, Mysore 'Economic Conference, will show how I co-operated with the Government

from the commencement of their Sericultural operations at Chennapatna.

“Read letter No. 647 dated 26th August 1914, from the Secretary, Agricultural Committee, proposing that a monthly rent of Rs. 45 may be fixed for the entire building at Chennapatna with open ground, etc., where the Government Silk Rearing Room is located and that sanction may be accorded for the payment of the rent at the rate of Rs. 25 from January 1914 till the end of July and at Rs. 45 thereafter as Mr. Signor Mari, Silk Expert, has signified his consent to contribute a sum of Rs. 20 towards the rent from January till the end of July 1914 as he had taken possession of the building for his private use during that period.

Order thereon.—“Sanction is accorded to the payment of the rent at the rate of Rs. 25 per mensem from January till the end of July 1914 and at the rate of Rs. 45 thenceforward.

2. “The Sericultural Inspectors in charge of the Silk Farm at Chennapatna are allowed to live on the premises free of rent for a period of one year.”

Mysore Silk Association. -- It was long thought necessary to get up an Association for the

development of the silk industry and the appointment of Signor W. Mari as Silk Expert gave impetus to the idea. The Association was formed on the 2nd April 1914 under very good auspices. A special *pandal* was put up in front of the Expert's office where a large gathering was present. The late Sirdar Sir M. Kantaraj Urs, C.S.I., then Member of Council, presided. In welcoming the gentleman I read the following address : —

“SIRDAR SAHEB AND GENTLEMEN,

It is over 100 years now that Tippu Sultan got Mulberry cuttings from China and Bengal and introduced the art of rearing silkworms in this State. Whatever silk was produced was utilized by the Royal household in the Capital, Seringapatam. We do not know what his own intentions were in the matter, but this industry was the source of income to great many of his people after his death. For about 12 years after the fall of Seringapatam, no one paid any attention to this industry. But there was one man who had the necessary wisdom to think ahead and who felt the pulse of the times, to whom alone this industry appealed as the one which would become a great industry in future ;

and this man was the famous Purniah the Great, then Naibius-Sultanath. To attain his object of seeing this industry developed on proper lines, he chose a man in whom he had great faith and this man was my great-grandfather Peer Mohammad Sahib. He, with his knowledge and experience, performed his duties so well that his Patron was more than satisfied. By God's grace my family has at all times, whenever there was necessity, helped to develop this particular art of rearing worms and reeling silk. What they have done for the last 100 years in this cause is a matter of history. Fifty years ago when an Italian gentleman Major A. P. De Vecche wanted to introduce Italian breeds of worms he had to depend for support and help on us and this fact is recorded in the books and accounts of our Firm, which were examined with patriotic pride by Dr. Gorio, the Italian Consul-General at Bombay, who was pleased to pay a visit to my house last week. That great Captain of Industry, the Parsi Merchant Prince of Bombay, the late Mr. J. N. Tata, who had the ambition of reeling Mysore Silk for the foreign markets, was sent to my late uncle with Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao

by that "remarkable Statesman" Sir K. Seshadri Iyer. The present Tata Farm in Bangalore is the standing monument of the deliberations of those three worthies who are no more with us, I mean Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, Mr. J. N. Tata and my late uncle Sowcar Mustan Sahib. What practical help we were able to render him and what suggestions he had are not forgotten even now by gentlemen like Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, the present Dewan of Baroda and Mr. H. J. Bhabha, the late Inspector-General of Education. A few years back when the industry began to show signs of decay, it fell to my humble lot to bring it to the serious notice of our Government.

d was

Years of Decadence. "Sirdar Sahib, the present decline, when the worms began to die in great numbers, I began to fear that the last days of silk in Mysore had come and the future generation would only read in histories of silk in Mysore as an industry that once existed in this State. But thank God my persistent efforts to bring this fact to the notice of the Government were not in vain. I was always harping on the same tune. Three Dewans, Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, Mr. T. Ananda Rao

and Mr. Visvesvaraya, were approached by me. I was heard at last and heard well but not too late. It may not be out of place to tell you, gentlemen, that this worm emerging from the forest 4,000 years ago began to be domesticated by no less a person than a Royal Princess of China. From that period it has always been found, fed and petted by Royal hands in all countries. When it was introduced into Central Asia and Europe, it had again Royal rearers. Even in Mysore it was introduced at the special Royal request of Tippu Sultan, the then Ruler of the State. When such is the past history of the Prince-like worm, it had a real grievance when it was neglected and left in the background in Mysore. I think this slight was keenly felt by the worm and the consequent sorrow weighed heavily upon its mind with the result that the worm has fallen a prey to several maladies, like Pebrine, Grassarie and Flatcherri. Nature, the all-powerful mother, must have heard with pain the wailings of this favourite child of hers and in finding out a remedy might have inspired our kind-hearted gracious Ruler to find means to eradicate the diseases. The Doctor, I think,

is the Economic Conference of Mysore. This complaint of the worms was communicated to the Royal ears by the Conference authorities.

Increasing Demand. “Sirdar Saheb, it is a well-known fact that middle and lower class people throughout the world now-a-days prefer silk clothes for cotton fabrics. Thus the demand for silk is increasing daily in all countries, every nation and Government is busy in producing as much silk as it consumes in its own territories. To watch this industry and to find out methods new and markets, every silk promoting country has one or more Silk Associations or Syndicates which receive substantial financial aid by way of subsidies and payments of the salaries of experts engaged in investigations.

“With this object in view we were trying to form such an organization in Mysore. We were not quite successful till to-day, with your presence the Royal worm is bound to be pleased and its maladies will certainly disappear.

Looking Ahead.—“The work of the Association is also bound to help the large number of Sericulturists of this Province. We are assured of your sympathy and of substantial aid from the Government. With such favourable signs

and hopes, the industry is bound to regain its prestige, if not, to become stronger than what it was once. I cannot afford to forget on an occasion like this the sympathetic help and encouraging words of our far-seeing and patriotic Dewan Sahib, Sir M. Visvesvaraya, who has often heard me with a patience worthy of a great Administrator and given me sufficient hope of solid help to develop the industry. One practical proof of this sympathy is the entertainment of Mr. Washington Mari, the Silk Expert, from Italy. This gentleman has already commenced his work in the Farm here and it is with great pleasure that I have to inform this assembly that two successful crops of Mysore worms were reared by him though he had this year of abnormal heat to contend against. If the tainted worms could be replaced by healthy worms, we can certainly congratulate ourselves and can confidently tell our brother sericulturists that the day of our salvation is at hand.

Acknowledgments.—“No words of mine can sufficiently describe the sympathetic attitude of the Chairman of the Agricultural Committee, Mr. K. S. Dorasami Iyer, who sent me round

3. "The Secretary, Economic Conference, the Director, Industries and Commerce, the Secretary, Industries and Commerce Committee and such other officers as are empowered by the Industries and Commerce Committee in this behalf, will be entitled to inspect the Filature and its accounts at any time during its working hours.

4. "The machinery, fittings and other appliances will remain the property of the Government and should be maintained by the Association in good working order.

5. "The Director of Industries and Commerce is requested to communicate this order to the Silk Association and submit a report to Government after the transfer is effected.

6. "The charges on this account will be met from the provision made for working the Filature during the current year.

7. "A quarterly report on the working of the Filature will be submitted to the Director of Industries and Commerce, who will send it up to Government with his remarks, if any."

On the 28th December 1915, the Government passed the following Order :—

Order No. 3006-10/A & I. 4-15-5, Bangalore, dated, 28th December 1915.

"The report states that work was begun on the 18th May 1915, after effecting the necessary repairs to the reels and other appliances in the Filature, that at present 11 reels are working and 6 are under repair, that out of the 11 reels, 8 are being worked on a commercial basis and three are being used for training fresh reelers.

2. "The Association has purchased 2,191 lbs. of cocoons and reeled 1,611 lbs. and have on hand 580 lbs. of steamed cocoons. The Association has employed a Manager to supervise the work and a clerk to keep accounts and two servants for supplying water to the boiler and basins and turn the wheels. The reelers are employed on monthly wages.

3. "The amount of silk and silk waste obtained and the amount realized by their sale have not been mentioned. Future reports should contain all such essential particulars and the total monthly cost of maintaining the Filature.

4. "The amount of Rs. 60 per month granted for six months to the Association may be immediately paid by the Director of

to tour in all the silk taluks to enlist the sympathies of those of my brethren who had any interest in Sericulture. It is but natural that as the worthy son of that great father, he must help us in the cause which was near to his heart.

“The personal interest that is taken by the other Government Officers especially Mr. C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Mr. K. Chandy, Mr. P. F. Bowring and Mr. K. Subba Rao, cannot but help the advance of the industry, and it is a happy augury that most of the Government Officers whom we had invited have come here on this auspicious occasion personally to show that they are really helping us.

“I convey to these gentlemen the thanks of all the sericulturists of the Province and of Kollegal and trust they will continue their advice and sympathies unabated.

“Before I conclude I wish to acknowledge publicly with thanks the great help rendered to me on all occasions for the past few years by a brother silk-man Mr. M. C. Srikantiah, the representative in Mysore of Messrs. B. G. Gorio and Company of Bombay and Milan.

“Sirdar Sahab, I crave permission now to thank you on behalf of myself and my family

for the great honour conferred on us by accepting our invitation to preside on this occasion. Your presence has, I can assure you, certainly added to the dignity of the occasion and I beg you to convey to H. H. the Maharaja Saheb Bahadur and H. H. the Yuvaraja Saheb Bahadur the loyal and humble respect of this Assembly. (CHEERS.)

“ Finally you can assure Their Highnesses that what little we are able to do to help the Silk Industry we will always do and that our efforts, we trust, will not go in vain.” (APPLAUSE.)

Silk Expert's Speech. Signor Washington Mari, Silk Expert in Mysore, next spoke as follows :—

“ GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in welcoming all of you to-day to the Government Silk Farm on the occasion of the opening of the Mysore Silk Association. There is very great need in Mysore for such an organization. In Italy, where the Silk Industry is flourishing, we have one association of men who prepare the seeds and another association among those who reel the silk. The members pay a subscription of Rs. 12 a year each. The members regulate the prices of seed

cocoons, of the mulberry leaves and fix the percentage of moisture in the cocoons and in the raw silk.

“The Association represents to the Government the wants of the members. Recently at the instance of the Association *tra-i-seemai* (Association among the producers of eggs) the Italian Government have deputed my younger brother, Benito Mari, Barrister-at-Law, who is engaged in our Silk Farm, to China at Government expense for finding out the different races of silkworms in China.

“I am sure, if the Mysore Silk Association only does practical work, the Mysore Government would give the Association every possible help. I shall always be glad to assist the Association in their work.

“I am very thankful to Sirdar M. Kantaraj Urs, our Chairman and other officers for the trouble they have taken in coming here.”

Chairman's Speech.—Sirdar M. Kantaraj Urs spoke as follows :—

“GENTLEMEN,

Advantages of Sericulture.—We are assembled here to-day to inaugurate a movement of

no small importance in the history of Sericulture of our State. The silk industry is, as you are aware, one of the most valuable assets of the Mysore State, and to the ryots and merchants, it is reported to bring on the whole, not less than a crore of rupees a year even on a modest calculation, though it is at present confined only to parts of the four Districts, Bangalore, Tumkur, Kolar and Mysore. The cultivation of mulberry, if proper water facilities exist and if the silkworms come up well, is a very paying concern. The peculiar advantage of sericulture is that it gives employment to the ryot who plants the mulberry, the men and women who rear the worms, the small capitalist and the labourer who reel the cocoons and the merchants engaged in the silk trade, not to speak of the weavers who use silk in the manufacture of pure or mixed silk fabrics. To all these people the industry brings in proportionate wages, income and profits within the short space of 40 to 45 days.

Conditions in Mysore. - "While in other sericultural countries there is only one crop a year, our country is exceptionally fortunate in having

from three to eight crops annually. The Mysore ryots are attached to the industry for generations past with a devotion and earnestness which is highly commendable. The Mysore Silk has an established reputation not only in the markets of India but even in the foreign markets of London and Paris provided that it is of high quality. Mysore Silk is exported largely to South India, Hyderabad, the Bombay Presidency and even to Benares. You are aware that a few years ago a well-known French Firm had established a filature on the borders of our State and was regularly exporting large quantities of cocoons to Bengal. The export of silk waste is by no means a negligible quantity.

“ You will thus see in what a variety of ways sericulture is profitable and what a large number of people depend upon it for their maintenance, and how fortunes are at times made by it. Such an important industry is certainly worth the serious attention as much of the Government as of the people.

Future Prospects of the Industry.—“ Silk and silk fabrics have been held in great sanctity in India from time immemorial. And to-day

all the world over the demand for silk and silk fabrics is ever increasing. There is, therefore, an unlimited scope for competition.

Our Backward Condition.—“ Other parts of the world have made rapid strides in the adoption of improved methods and appliances in the manufacture of silk and silk fabrics; while we, in Mysore, are yet following the same old methods which prevailed so far back as a century ago, if not more. Our ryots are illiterate and conservative. Our people are not conscious yet of the advantages to be derived from the use of modern machinery, the houses in which the worms are reared are dark, narrow, ill-ventilated and insanitary. Our appliances for rearing worms and reeling silk are crude and primitive. Among our merchants there is not the same spirit of co-operation and enterprise as that which prevails among the merchants of the West. The capital which is invested by the people in sericulture is comparatively insignificant to what other enterprising nations have invested in it. Consequently, the industry is slowly but surely declining and it is said that from 30 to 45 per cent of each crop is being lost.

Efforts Now Made by Government.— “This is indeed a very sad state of things calling for immediate attention on the part of those interested in the well-being of the noble industry. It is, therefore, the Government have, in the past 3 or 4 years, adopted special measures for helping the people in developing the industry. The Agricultural Committee have employed trained Inspectors, to explain improved methods to the ryots and are publishing from time to time valuable literature both in English and Kannada languages.

“Recently the Government have appointed an Italian Expert of great fame in the person of Signor Washington Mari who, as you know, is organizing his Central Farm in the very place where we have met to-day. His first aim is to establish seed depots and distribute disease-free eggs to the ryots. He is carrying on important experiments and we wish him every success in his efforts.

“The Director of Industries and Commerce has opened a Silk Filature in this town. Thus Chennapatna promises to become a great educational and experimental Centre in sericulture.

Tata's Farm. -“The late Parsi Millionaire patriot, Mr. J. N. Tata, was one of the earliest pioneers in the silk industry in Mysore, and his farm, which is now managed by the Salvation Army, is doing valuable work at Bangalore, and they are, I learn. opening a branch at Closepet very soon.

Silk Association. -“It seems to me, therefore, that it is very opportune for you to organize a Silk Association and to locate its headquarters at Chennapatna. In fact such a body should have come into existence several years ago. There is great deal of useful work before the Association which, if well organized and well carried out, ought to be the means of bringing to the members and the people a great deal of wealth. No amount of trouble or expenditure can be considered too much to place sericulture on a satisfactory basis. This must primarily be the concern of the leaders of the people engaged in the industry. If you take the lead in the matter, you can rely upon the sympathetic aid of Government. I have already described to you the measures adopted by the Government, but unless you yourselves do your share of the work first and then ask

for Government help, it will be impossible to achieve any enduring results. The great dangers you should bear in mind and guard against are such as internal factions, petty jealousies, sectarian bias and lethargic habits.

“I wish your Association a long and vigorous life, and I hope it will prove an active and useful body.

“Your draft rules just now read to us are simple and practical and ought to work well. I can assure you that His Highness the Maharaja and His Highness the Yuvaraja as also the Dewan (who by the way desired me to convey his best wishes to you for the success of your Association) will be immensely pleased to hear that the Mysore Silk Association has been started and that it enters upon its work in a spirit of hope and earnestness. I shall certainly submit to His Highness the Maharaja your sentiments of loyalty and devotion you desire me to convey.

“I congratulate all the members of the Association who have come from far and near, upon the success of this function and especially Mr. Abdul Quddus who has taken immense trouble in organizing the Association and in

making all the preliminary arrangements. He is a member of the Agricultural Committee and has appropriately derived a great deal of help from Mr. K. Subba Rao, the Secretary to the Agricultural Committee. Mr. Subba Rao has made a special study of the subject and I have no doubt he will continue to render all possible aid to the Association in its work and represent your needs in an effective manner to the Agricultural Committee and the Government. It now only remains for me to wish your Association once more all success and prosperity and thank you for the honour you have done me in asking me to preside." (Prolonged Cheers.)

Grant from Government.—Government, on the 12th December 1914, passed an order from which the following extracts are taken :—

"The Government will be pleased to sanction grants to the Mysore Silk Association upto the amount collected by way of private subscriptions and upto a limit of Rs. 500 a year on the following conditions :—

(a) "The programme of work of the Association should be submitted to Government for

approval beforehand and the amount spent according to the approved programme.

(b) "An annual report of work done should be submitted to the Government before the 31st July of each succeeding year.

(c) "The grant will be liable to be cancelled if sufficient work has not, in their opinion, been done."

Sir M. Visvesvaraya's Reference.—On the 20th March 1916, while on a visit to Chennapatna, the then Dewan Sir M. Visvesvaraya in his reply to the several addresses presented to him, referred to the Association as follows :—

"The improvement of Sericulture is a subject of outstanding importance to this part of the country. You are aware that Government have taken active steps in the matter and I am also glad that an influential Association has been formed under the guidance of public-spirited citizens like Mr. Abdul Quddus to promote the Industry."

Closing of the Association.—In spite of my best efforts I was not able to keep alive the Association longer than the year 1917 owing to the want of response from the capitalists and ryots engaged in sericulture.

Examination of Sericultural Students.—The Agricultural Committee were training students in the Tata's Silk Farm on scholarships and in the periodical examinations which took place, I took part at the request of the Committee.

Silk Filature. The Government sanctioned temporarily the transfer of the Silk Filature on certain concessions and conditions, which are contained in the following Order of the Government dated the 29th March 1915.

ORDER No. 3611-16/A & I. 7-14-19, dated the 29th MARCH 1915.

“Government consider it desirable to entrust the working of the Filature to private management for some time and are accordingly pleased to direct that the Silk Filature be handed over to the Silk Association at Chennapatna temporarily for a period of 2 years on the following conditions :—

1. “A grant of Rs. 60 per mensem will be given by Government for a period of six months for the upkeep of the Filature.

2. “The services of the Operator in charge of the Boiler will be transferred to the Silk Association, his pay being met by the Association.

Industries and Commerce out of the Budget for the Department.

5. "The President of the Association requests that the grant of Rs. 60 given at present may be enhanced and continued for some time more on the ground that the Filature has just begun to attract attention and that the training of students involves waste of silk. The Secretary, Agricultural Committee, is requested to submit definite proposals on the above after inspecting the Filature.

6. "The Silk Association should regard it as a primary duty to supply silk of suitable quality to the Government Weaving Factory at market rates on previous intimation. A special paragraph should be devoted to this in future periodical reports.

7. "A report for the quarter ending 31st January 1916, should be submitted punctually through the Agricultural Committee with the Committee's observations, if any."

The Working of the Filature entailed on me a loss of Rs. 3,000 and I had to close it with the permission of Government at the end of 1916 and to hand over the machinery to

Government. The advance received from Government was also adjusted.

The Silk Reeling and Twisting School. — With a view to improve silk reeling and twisting I opened schools for boys and girls at Chennapatna. The following proceedings of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore fully explain the details thereof.

“Letter No. 333 dated 20th July 1917 from the Secretary, Mysore Economic Conference, forwarding copy of a letter from the Secretary, Agricultural Committee with copy of the resolution of the Agricultural Committee on the Scheme proposed by Mr. Abdul Quddus of Chennapatna for training boys and girls and especially *Pardanishin* women in Silk Reeling and Twisting and also finding a market for the twisted silk and requesting early orders on the recommendation of the Committee.”

Order No. 1581—4/A. & E. 28-17-4, Bangalore, dated the 15th August 1917.

“The Committee recommends the opening of 2 Silk Reeling and Twisting Schools at Chennapatna—one for the training of boys and the other for training of girls—at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,642, and that a sum of Rs. 5,000 be placed

at the credit of Mr. Abdul Quddus on his personal responsibility free of interest for one year for the purpose of financing the commercial part of the scheme submitted by him.

“The Government are pleased to sanction the above recommendation of the Committee for a period of one year. The advance may be made to Mr. Abdul Quddus on his personal security and on his agreeing to draw it in such amount as would be fully secured by the stock purchased or....available for sale on which it will be a fresh charge. It will also be subject to the condition that if the amount is kept unpaid beyond one year, interest will be charged thereon at $6\frac{1}{4}\%$ according to Industrial Takavi Loan Rules. The source from which the expenditure of Rs. 1,642 will be met will be pointed out to the Comptroller by the Secretary, Mysore Economic Conference and a report on the working of the scheme should be submitted to Government at the end of 6 months.

“Mr. Abdul Quddus at whose instance the scheme has been sanctioned requests that he may be given a suitable designation and proper establishment to successfully carry out the work under the scheme. Government

have considered the matter and are pleased to direct that Mr. Abdul Quddus be designated Honorary Supervisor of Sericulture and be entitled to the same rules of Travelling Allowances as are allowed to the Members of the Agricultural Committee for all journeys performed by him as such Supervisor with the approval of the Secretary, Economic Conference.

“An establishment consisting of a clerk on Rs. 25 and a peon on Rs. 7 a month is sanctioned for the office of the Honorary Supervisor for a period of six months, the cost thereof being pointed out to the Comptroller by the Secretary, Economic Conference.

“Government are also pleased to allow for a period of one year expenditure up to a limit of Rs. 500 for proved loss due to silk being wasted by the learners in the Schools. The loss will be certified to by the Superintendent of Sericulture and approved by the Secretary, Economic Conference whose decision will be final. Mr. Abdul Quddus will be responsible for the maintenance of necessary registers and accounts and to see that they are made available for inspection when required.”

Order No. 10700-703/A. & E. 84-18-8, Bangalore, dated the 28th April 1919.

“The establishment of the Silk Twisting and Reeling Schools was sanctioned in the latter part of the year 1917 and the Schools have been continued from year to year after an examination of the results achieved.

2. “Mr. Abdul Quddus has now requested that under the circumstances represented in the letter read above orders may be passed continuing the School for a period of three years once for all. Government consider the present arrangement of continuing the Scheme from year to year more satisfactory as it will allow of the results achieved from time to time being watched and given their due weight. This will moreover not in any way hamper Mr. Quddus's object in starting the Institution, *viz.*, to train a sufficient number of persons in the Industry to be able to start it on a large scale independently of the School. Government also consider that the Commercial section of the School should not incur any loss of property as the finished produce should be able to fetch a higher value than the raw silk and it

should be placed as far as possible on a self-supporting basis.

3. "In order to enable Mr. Abdul Quddus to develop the instructional side of the School, the number of Scholarships tenable in the School will be raised from 30 to 40. The period of training will be fixed ordinarily at 3 months but may, in special cases, subject to the approval of the Superintendent, be extended to 6 months.

4. "As regards loss caused by pupils through want of skill in the initial stages a sum of Rs. 2 will be allowed to each pupil who has undergone a complete course of training.

5. "To assist him in maintaining regular accounts of the concern Mr. Abdul Quddus will be given an additional clerk on Rs. 15 and a peon on Rs. 7 till the end of December 1919.

6. "As Mr. Abdul Quddus has agreed to provide all the capital for the purchase of raw materials, the order sanctioning the loan of Rs. 5,000 is cancelled. All amounts outstanding on account of the loan previously taken should be adjusted before the 15th May 1919. Any losses that might have been already incurred in supplying silk to learners will be

dealt with on the same principles as those laid down in para 4, namely, Rs. 2 may be paid for each pupil who has undergone a course of training in the School.

7. "The School will be subject to the general supervision of the Superintendent of Sericulture as at present and all expenditure incurred will be paid after the Bills are passed by him. All reports and returns will be sent to him in the first instance. A half-yearly report on the working of the School will be submitted by the Superintendent of Sericulture.

8. "Mr. Abdul Quddus will be permitted to undertake, with the previous approval of the Superintendent of Sericulture, such tours in the interests of the Silk Trade as may be found necessary within the State and allowed the same rates of travelling allowance as approved by the Government.

9. "The additional expenditure now sanctioned will be met during the current year from the source to be pointed by the Superintendent of Sericulture."

Despatch of Silk to the Nizam's Government.—On the 6th November 1919, the

Superintendent of Sericulture in Mysore wrote to me as follows : -

"I thank you for having sent the different kinds of silks to the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, H. E. H. the Nizam's Government."

Report on the Working of the School.—I submitted the following report on the working of the School in 1919 :

"I beg to submit herewith the report of the Government Silk Twisting School, Chennapatna for the period of one year (1 - 1 19 to 31 - 12 19).

"Since the experiment of starting the School was undertaken by me, a good deal of initial difficulties, which I am glad to report, have disappeared and are disappearing gradually.

"It is a gratifying sign of the time that classes and communities that were not taking interest in industrial pursuits have begun to evince keen interest in the line. Mahrattas, Vokkaligars, Jatties, Chitragars (professional painters), Darzies or tailors and even barbers have been attracted to take up this work and are actually earning a decent living by making *chapras* and *huree* in their own houses. I have taken care

to send the female instructresses to their own homes to give training to the women without prejudice to their domestic work with the happy result that every worker without any extra bodily exertion is able to earn from six to eight annas a day for turning out a pound of *huree* or a pound and a half of *chapras*.

“Other likely recruits must come from the interior (villages) and the suburb of Chennapatna. I endeavour to get more workers from all the Mohallas (wards of the towns) and the news of the earning that is likely to spread will be to the advantage of the institution.

“I must frankly admit that the famine was a blessing in disguise so far as our work was concerned. Many a family man who would not have cared to train his daughter or wife to turn silk eagerly, took advantage of the Silk School, and is now thanking himself for his shrewdness. Our female teachers took the fullest advantage and went out and worked ceaselessly in new areas. Applications for more scholarships were pouring in till we were compelled to decline to receive more applications. Apart from Government Scholarships No. 40 of two rupees each, I paid some scholarships on my own

account seeing the abject poverty of the deserving poor. The whole of this year prices ruled high and these scholarships of Rs. 2 each were really a godsend to many a home.

“ There is scope for extending the work not only in the town but in all silk producing centres. The present number of scholarships may be doubled, if not trebled and if the Government is pleased to sanction my prayer I will see workers in all parts of the Municipal area. The future is very bright and holds out great hopes and I think, as an enthusiast, it will be criminal on my part not to make the best of this opportunity. I earnestly plead on behalf of the poor of this town who can be made to earn a decent living in the course of a few months. The material is here, men and women are willing and eager to take up this work but my hands are tied for want of money.

“ My goal is to see all Mysore Raw Silk turned into clothes if not re-reeled and twisted on the spot without being exported to the consuming centres in other parts of India. For this I have been pleading and will never cease to plead because I know my cause is worthy of strong and substantial support from Government. It

will be the proudest movement of my life when all able-bodied men and women, boys and girls in the silk area take up one branch of the silk industry not only enriching themselves but stopping the drain that is now going on in the shape of wages earned by workers in the different stages of converting the raw silk into woven cloth. At the risk of tiring the Government I have tried to put the situation before Government and I am confident that my pleadings will not go in vain.

New Markets.—“I have personally taken the re-reeled silk at my cost to several parts of the Bombay Presidency and to Conjeevaram and to Madras and found ready buyers whose hunger for such silks can only be satisfied if another 100 schools of this type are opened in the Province. It is no exaggeration. Sir, but it is plain truth there is more money in the business for all those who can venture to invest a few thousands. The expansion of this industry is sure to hit some important centres like Madura, Kumbakonam, Salem, Sholapur, Hubli and Belgaum. We cannot afford to be philanthropic when we see our raw silk snatched out of our hands by outsiders at a price which is ridiculously

low. A few more processes like re-reeling, twisting, bleaching and dyeing will certainly bring up a very substantial money in the shape of wages earned. We have already on hand large orders from different centres which we cannot hope to meet with the present number of trained hands. The only remedy seems to me to request some well-to-do merchants to co-operate with the Government and extend the industry in their areas. Their sphere of influence must be mapped out and the Government must show them by propaganda work and actual demonstrations that there is money for them or their clients. At first if they contribute their labour for supervising the schools, it will be quite sufficient.

“ They may not invest their money and risk any loss that a paternal Government will undertake in the interest of the industrial advancement of its people. This happy consummation is possible now and with the prospect of exporting our silk to foreign markets in the near future. It is no dream, Sir, but if you, with your enthusiasm, strongly support my views, both the merchants and the Government are sure to bless my suggestion.

New Centres. “I would suggest the opening of Sericultural Schools in the following places. I have personally visited these places and there had interviews with the Local Government Officers, the leading Silk Merchants and Reelers, Heads of communities and finally with prospective workers also. The time is opportune and we must take advantage of utilizing their enthusiasm when starting the schools at once. 1. Closepet, 2. T. Narsipur, 3. Malavalli, 4. Nidaghatta, 5. Hoskote, 6. Hindiganal, 7. Kyalanoor, 8. Kolar, 9. Nandi, 10. Chickballapur and 11. Kankanhalli.

“I cannot close this report without acknowledging with gratitude the timely advice and encouragement cheerfully extended to me at all times by the Superintendent of Sericulture.”

Government Order thereon.—The Government passed the following Order on the above:—

Government Order No. 6143-5/A. & E. 84-18-3, dated the 7th January 1919, sanctioning the continuance of the silk reeling and twisting Schools at Chennapatna for further period of one year from 1st January 1919.

Government Order No. 10700-703/A. & E. 84-18-8, dated the 28th April 1919, sanctioning

certain proposals of Mr. Abdul Quddus, Honorary Supervisor of Sericulture, for the improvement of the said schools at Chennapatna.

Letter No. 1604 dated the 4th January 1920 from the Superintendent of Sericulture, forwarding copy of Mr. Abdul Quddus's Report on the working of the schools during the year 1919 and requesting that in consideration of the useful purpose the schools have been serving, sanction may be accorded to their continuance for another year from 1st January 1920.

Order No. 7362- A & E. 59-19-12, Bangalore, dated the 9th February 1920.

"Sanctioned. The appreciation of the Government may be conveyed to Mr. Abdul Quddus for the perseverance with which he has continued his efforts to introduce Silk Twisting as one of the industries in the State and the results so far attained.

"A brief financial statement of the year's operations with a balance sheet should be appended to future report."

The Closing of the School. --With the permission of the Government I had to close the School for want of funds in the year 1921. I may state that the boys and girls trained in

the School. about 500 in number, have profited by it a great deal.

Grant of Lands to the Silk Farm, Chennapatna.—The following is the Order of Government on the subject :—

Order No. 3035 41—A.L. 249-14-8, dated the 3rd January 1916.

“Mr. Abdul Quddus, President of the Mysore Silk Association, has, on behalf of his father, agreed to make over the four acres of land on which the Government Silk Farm at Chennapatna is situated unconditionally to Government with the well, buildings and other appurtenances thereon with a view to the Farm being extended in order to meet the requirements of this important industry. Government are pleased to accept the offer. The Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, is requested to have a suitable deed of gift executed by the donor. The appreciation of Government should be conveyed both to Sowcar Mr. Mohammad Hyder Sahib and Mr. Sowcar Abdul Quddus for their generous offer and they are also pleased to direct that a suitable tablet may be put upon the Farm to mark the Gift. The lands and

buildings will be returned to the donor on payment of a reasonable price to be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner for improvements effected, should the Farm be closed at any time.

2. "The Secretary, Agricultural Committee, is requested to arrange in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner to take charge of the lands and buildings and submit the proposals of the Committee for the proper utilization of the buildings."

Reference by Sir M. Visvesvaraya.— On June 9, 1916, Sir M. Visvesvaraya in his address to the Economic Conference referred to the above gift as follows :-

"The Agricultural Committee has given special attention to the development of sericulture. The services of Signor W. Mari who carried on preliminary investigations in 1914 have been re-employed. The construction of a Rearing School has been sanctioned at Chennapatna, where the Central Farm which is the gift of a local merchant will be developed to supply disease-free eggs on a large scale."

Further Gift. --I offered a further gift of about 3 acres of land to Government who were pleased

to accept it as shown in the following Order of Government :—

Read :—

“Government Order No. 6290 - 1/A. & I. 158-15-3, dated the 2nd May 1916, sanctioning the proposal of the Secretary, Economic Conference, to take on lease for a period of three years, for the Chennapatna Sericultural Farm, five acres out of 9 acres and 7 guntas of land belonging to Mr. Abdul Quddus at the rate of Rs. 40 per acre.

2. “Letter No. 1981, dated the 26th September 1918 from the Secretary to S. No. 10, extent 8 guntas. the Economic Conference, recommending sanction to the proposal of the Superintendent of Sericulture to accept the gift now offered by Mr. Abdul Quddus of the lands noted in the margin, measuring 2 acres and 37 guntas in extent out of the lands already taken on lease and to take on lease for a period of ten years other lands of his as noted in the margin measuring 6 acres and 18 guntas at an annual rental of Rs. 350.”

Portion of S. No. 11, extent 39 guntas.
 Portion of No. 39, extent 1 acre 30 guntas.
 Remaining portion of S. Nos. 39 and 11.
 Whole of S. Nos. 16, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 36, extent 6 acres 18 guntas.

Order thereon No. 3769 8/A. & E. 97-18-2, Bangalore, dated the 6th November 1918.

“Government are pleased to direct that the gift of lands noted above offered by Mr. Abdul Quddus for the Sericultural Farm at Chennapatna be accepted and their thanks conveyed to Mr. Abdul Quddus for the gift. They are further pleased to sanction the proposal of the Superintendent to take on lease the other lands noted in the margin measuring 6 acres and 18 guntas at an annual rental of Rs. 350 for 10 years in the first instance, subject to the condition that when the leased land is given up by Government at any time, Mr. Abdul Quddus shall be liable to pay half the cost of the value imparted by permanent improvements and that he shall have no claim to the usufruct of the trees excepting the right to remove dead wood. The amount which may be required over and above that already provided in the current year's budget for the purpose will be met by re-appropriation and provision made for this in the future budget.”

Gold Medal for Commerce. - With a view to encourage the study of Commerce by the students of Chennapatna High School, I have

offered the award of a Gold Medal annually to any student of the High School who comes first in the State in Commerce from Chennapatna from the year 1920.

Putting up the Memorial Tablet. On the 15th April 1923 the function of putting up the Tablet was performed under the presidency of Mr. Mir Humza Hussein Sahib, B.A., B.L., Member of Council, in the presence of a large assembly of Officers and Non-officials and merchants who had arrived from different parts of the State and the adjoining British Districts.

Address to Member of Council.---I presented the Councillor with the following address:—
RESPECTED SIR,

“The rare privilege of meeting you— one of the most esteemed members of the Mohammedan Community of the Mysore Raj— on this memorable occasion, has devolved on me, as the senior surviving son of the late Sowcar Mohammad Hyder Sahib of Chennapatna, who, in the year 1915, agreed to make over the four acres of land on which the Government Central Silk Farm at Chennapatna was situated unconditionally with the well, buildings and other appurtenances thereon with a view to the Farm being extended in order to meet the requirements of Sericulture.

On the 3rd January 1916 Government were pleased to accept the proposal and ordered the appreciation of Government to be conveyed to my father and to myself for the offer and were also pleased to direct that a suitable Tablet be put up on the Farm to mark the Gift.

2. "It is only now after the expiry of seven years from the date of the Government Order, that it has been found possible to give full effect to the wishes of Government. The inscription on the tablet as suggested by Government bears testimony to 'the long connection with Sericultural Industry of the Mustan Family' and it will therefore be appropriate to refer briefly to a few historical facts bearing on the subject.

3. "In the beginning of the 19th Century, about the year 1802-1803, my great grandfather Mr. Peer Mohammad who was the first to emigrate into Mysore from Bijapur during the wars between the Peshwas and Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan was asked by Srimanth Purniah, the then Naibius-Sultanath, to take Mulberry Cuttings from Dhangur in Malavalli Taluk to Chennapatna and rear Silkworms. This was the origin of the industry in Chennapatna and it has thus a history of 121 years

behind it. From that date to the present hour my family has been intimately connected with the growth and development of the industry, in its four-fold aspects of cultivation of Mulberry, rearing of Silkworms, reeling of silk and the sale of the finished product.

4. "The result of the systematic efforts made by the members of the Mustan family from 1802-03 to introduce the industry in various parts of the State by sending trained men and Mulberry Cuttings, has borne splendid fruits, and to-day the output of silk in the State is estimated on an average from 50 to 60 lakhs of rupees a year, of which about one-fourth passes through Chennapatna, one of the important centres of silk industry and trade.

5. "The Mustan family has accounts and ledgers of the silk trade continuously from 1232 Hijira. The family gave a helping hand to Major A. P. De Veeche, the famous Italian Expert, who opened a Silk Filature at Kengeri and introduced Italian seeds. From 1895-98 Mr. J. N. Tata, the great Parsi millionaire and patriot who laboured hard to revive the Sericultural industry in the State by importing Japanese Experts, was in close correspondence with

the members of the Mustan family in regard to experiments from time to time and often tendered his thanks for the prompt response accorded to the requisitions received from him or his agents. Lately in 1906-1907 when the silkworms were threatened by the out-break of Pebrine, I went to Calcutta and with the help of the then Dewan Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., I visited the well-known filature of Messrs. Hasham Ariff and Brothers and also saw the Mulberry gardens of Messrs. Louise Payne & Co., of Murshadabad and submitted to the Dewan a report of my investigations.

6. "It was only when His Highness the Maharaja Saheb graciously established the Economic Conference in 1911 that this important Industry was systematically taken up by Government for investigation and improvement and since then I have been in close touch with the various officers of Government. The Silk Farm of Chennapatna was started in my family lands in 1913-14, gifted to Government unconditionally and it was in this Farm that the first and the most important experiments were conducted by the Italian Expert Signor W. Mari with the able co-operation and

incessant attention of Mr. K. Subba Rao, the first Secretary to the Agricultural Committee.

7. "In April 1914 the Silk Association was opened by Sirdar (Sir) M. Kantaraj Urs, who referred to the Silk industry as one of the most valuable assets of the Mysore State, to the traditional attachment of the Mysore ryots to the industry, to the backward condition of the industry in Mysore owing to adherence to the old methods and the conservatism and illiteracy of the ryots and the primitive and crude state of appliances of rearing worms and reeling silk. He assured the public of the best wishes of His Highness the Maharaja and His Highness the Yuvaraja towards the success of my efforts. The Sirdar concluded his inspiring speech thus : --"I congratulate all the members of the Association and especially Mr. Abdul Quddus who has taken immense trouble in organizing the Association and in making all the preliminary arrangements. He is a member of the Agricultural Committee and has appropriately derived a great deal of help from Mr. K. Subba Rao, the Secretary to the Committee, who has made a special study of the subject."

8. "In the year 1915 I took up the Government Silk Filature, Chennapatna, under my charge from Mr. (Sir) Alfred Chatterton and sustained a great deal of loss in working it for about 2 years. Subsequently in 1917 I started a Silk Twisting School which did very good work for four years, and Government in their Proceedings Nos. 7362--3/A. & E. 59 19-12, dated the 9th February, directed "the appreciation of Government may be conveyed to Mr. Abdul Quddus for the perseverance with which he had continued his efforts to introduce Silk Twisting as one of the industries in the State and the results so far attained."

9. "In 1918 I offered to Government an additional three acres of land, free of cost, and Government in their No. 3769, dated 6th November 1918 accepted the gift and ordered their thanks to be conveyed to me.

10. "Our prayer is that the Sericultural Farm at Chennapatna may be further developed and enlarged, and in consonance with the wishes of the donors of the lands, the efforts of the Department may be concentrated on increasing the production of disease-free eggs for distribution, on reasonable terms, to the

large body of silkworm rearers requiring them. The price of silk has increased considerably and I beg to be pardoned for submitting to Government through you that it will be, from purely an economic point of view, a folly of the greatest magnitude if this opportunity is neglected of improving Mysore Silk, both the output of the raw produce and the fineness of the texture of the reeled silk. Mysore is specially favoured by the Almighty in having facilities for Sericulture and it is the foremost duty of the Government and the people to improve it so as to make Mysore Silk unrivalled in the markets of India and to enable it to maintain its fame and supremacy in competition with the products of the other parts of the world. While acknowledging the need of the Filature I wish to emphasize the fact that the production of the raw silk in larger quantities and of finer quality and the increase in the manufacture of disease-free eggs, are most essential and should occupy the attention of Government more than they do at present.

11. "It is a matter of great gratification to me that our Dewan Mr. Albion Rajkumar Banerji, M.A., I.C.S., C.I.E., C.S.I., has always

evinced a personal solicitude in the development of indigenous industries, and we can always depend on his active sympathy and able guidance.

12. "I wish to take this opportunity of acknowledging the kind help I have received from time to time in my labours from Dewan Bahadur K. P. Puttanna Chetty, Dr. Coleman and Messrs. K. Chandu, C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, P. G. D'Souza and N. Rama Rao. Both Messrs. Appadurai Mudaliar and Lakshmana Rao of the Sericultural Department have always exhibited keen interest in pushing on the work of the Farm.

13. "Now it remains for me only to request you to be so good as to convey to His Highness the Maharaja Sahib and His Highness the Yuvaraja Sahib the sentiments of deep devotion and loyalty of the members of my family towards the Throne of His Highness and His august personality and of the hereditary attachment with which we regard this pioneer industry of the State.

14. "In conclusion I wish to tender to you as the representative of His Highness' Government and as one of the trusted

Councillors to His Highness, our sentiments of thankfulness and gratitude for the great honour you have conferred on us and on the townsmen of Chennapatna by condescending to preside over this interesting function and to fix the Memorial Tablet in the Government Central Silk Farm."

The Reply. -- Mr. Mir Humza Hussein Sahib replied as follows :-

"MR. ABDUL QUDDUS AND GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to take part in this function *viz.*, that of commemorating by means of a Tablet the generosity displayed by the late lamented Sowcar Hyder Sab in providing the land required for carrying on experiments for the development of the Sericultural industry and the great interest taken by the family in promoting this important industry. It is a matter for great regret that Mr. Hyder Sab has not been spared to be present on this memorable occasion. I have had the privilege of a long personal friendship with him extending over several years. He worthily continued the traditions of his family and maintained its position in the Silk industry by being the leading Silk merchant in the State. He was

noted for his business capacity and philanthropy. He carried on his business not with the object merely of driving hard bargains but had a larger conception of his duties and was ready to help the persons engaged in the production of raw silk financially and in other ways. His mantle has fallen worthily on his son who, I feel confident, will sustain the tradition and reputation of the family and add to its lustre.

“The account which has been given of the origin of the industry in the Chennapatna Taluk in the address, is very interesting and it is very fortunate that the family which gave the first impetus to it should be able to see this industry gradually developing for three generations until at present it has become the most important industry in this Taluk.

“Government fully realize the importance of this industry and the great potentialities it possesses in providing subsidiary occupations to the people of the State and adding to their wealth and have therefore established a Special Department for its expansion and development on modern lines.

“According to the latest Census, from 2,000 to 3,000 persons in the State are engaged in

rearing silkworms, an equal number in reeling and a similar number in weaving silk cloths. It will thus be seen that nearly 10,000 persons in the State are dependent directly on this industry in some form or other. Mr. Abdul Quddus estimates the value of silk produced in Mysore at about Rs. 50 to 60 lakhs. I believe this is an under-estimate. The high price of silk together with the comparative freedom from disease in recent years has considerably stimulated the production of silk and if the present rate of improvement continues the time when the value of raw silk produced in the State will be very nearly a crore of rupees cannot be far off.

“The State possesses certain exceptional advantages for the development of Sericulture. Almost all parts of the Bangalore, Mysore, Kolar and Tumkur Districts are suitable for this industry. There are also parts of the Kadur and Hassan Districts in which this industry can be developed on a large scale, and I am glad to state that under the able guidance of Mr. Rama Rao, who has thrown his heart and soul into the work, Mulberry cultivation has extended to parts where it was unknown

and is eagerly being taken up by agriculturists. The area under mulberry has increased from 17,425 acres in 1916-17 to 30,316 acres in 1920.

“The main source of loss in the Sericultural industry is the use of diseased seed. Government have provided certain facilities for the supply of disease-free seed. From the Farm at which we are assembled here to-day, 1,15,805 layings were distributed during the last official year, and between May and November 1922, the Farm sold 6,50,638 cocoons for the preparation of seed. The Farm has been doing good work but it cannot meet the large and growing demand.

“In France, Italy, and Japan private grainages are found to be very profitable concerns. As it is not possible for Government to meet all the requirements of the people for seed, attempts are being made to induce private capitalists to start such grainages and I am glad to find that an enterprising merchant at Nanjangud has taken up the work and I wish him success in his venture.

“The Sericultural industry is capable of great improvement. There are no proper rearing houses. The quantity of silk given by the Mysore

Silkworm is capable of being increased by careful selection. The Japanese Expert in Mysore has produced some very interesting results in this direction and also in hybridization. Another drawback in the industry is that reeling is conducted on primitive lines and the silk reeled is wanting in uniformity and is so full of knots that it has no demand in foreign market. The Department has already taken steps to remove this defect and through the exertions of Mr. Rama Rao, a filature has been set up at Mysore which has been doing very good work and which has already secured a foreign market for Mysore Silk.

“Mr. Abdul Quddus has put forward an eloquent plea that the importance of Chennapatna as the main centre of Sericulture should be maintained. Government have done what all they could for the maintenance of its importance as is evident from the fact that they have established one of the most important farms in this place, but if Mr. Abdul Quddus has in his mind the establishment of a filature, that is a matter for private enterprise and I hope that the Mustan family which has been the pioneer of Silk Industry in the State will

also give a lead in this direction and establish a filature at Chennapatna.

“ In conclusion, I heartily thank Mr. Abdul Quddus for the opportunity he has afforded me to meet you all. Before proceeding to lay the Tablet I wish all prosperity and happiness to the family of the late Sowcar Hyder Sab, and I wish also that this institution which has been started on the land provided by them, may serve to give more and more impetus to the industry in this Taluk and in other parts of the State as well.”

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A Notable Ceremony.--On the same Sunday, the 15th April 1923, the members of the Mustan family invited Sir Haji Ismail Sait Sahib to Chennapatna and on their behalf I read the following address :

SIR,

“We, the members of the Mustan family beg to take this unique opportunity of congratulating you on the dignity of Knighthood conferred upon you by His Majesty, and expressing our sincere pleasure on your winning so rare and coveted a distinction. What adds greater zest to our rejoicings is, the fact that

you are a notable scion of the family which has been in relations of unbroken friendship with the Mustan family for over a century and a quarter. You are an example so valuable to your struggling fellow-men— of one, who, born to moderate means, rises by dint of persistent and undaunted efforts to heights of manly status which command the admiration and homage of your fellow-countrymen. Ease, idleness and failure are so common in this world that the example of one like you rising by a proper use of your powers to public esteem and commercial leadership, is like a light held forth to give courage and ambition to your less-favoured countrymen.

2. “ Your success would not be quite so estimable perhaps were it not for the remarkable public spirit which characterises your enterprises and your munificent benefactions towards things which aim at the happiness of the people at large. It is as much in appreciation of this aspect of your gifted personality as in recognition of your eminence as a keen and shrewd and successful business man that both His Highness the Maharaja and His Majesty the

King-Emperor have marked you out as a fit recipient of conspicuous distinctions.

“Sir, we are aware that besides the troubles which beset a life of lofty commercial enterprise in general, you have had to face irrational and wanton opposition from those of your own religion and even those near to you. But you have come out of the conflict an easy victor. Faithful to your own convictions and sure of your own honesty of purpose, you have upheld them valiantly against odds, and have established your right to pursue your life in the light in which God has been pleased to place you. The pluck that you have evinced in this connection has evoked our unstinted admiration and frank approval.

“We ought perhaps to notice here the universality of your popularity, how Hindus as well as Mohammadans, Indians as well as Europeans, vie with each other in the sincerity of their friendship for you. And we ought not also to omit the fact that yours is the first instance in which the Government of India have conferred on a member of the commercial community of the State the exalted honour of Knighthood. Never before in the whole history of the Mysore

State has it fallen to the lot of a public business man to achieve this coveted distinction. And we are all so glad over it, and look upon it as something personal to ourselves.

“Sir, in conclusion, we have to express gratification at your presence amidst us on this occasion and to thank you for your condescension in coming over to us. We wish you a further long lease of life and health and hope that you will reach ever more prosperity and glory.

May God give you Peace, Tranquility and Comfort.”

Reply. —The following is a condensed summary of Sir Haji Ismail Sait’s reply :

“Mr. Humza Hussein, Members of the Mustan family and other friends,

“I am very happy to receive this address from you on my elevation to Knighthood. It gives me immense pleasure to remember that the friendship between your family and my own has continued for so long as a century and a quarter. Our ancestors could scarcely have expected that such an occasion as this would arise and that you should entertain me so grandly.

As you say in your address, much trouble was given to me in the recent movements by the people, but it is a fact I can tell you that the truth always comes out successful and in the present instance, also, this has been proved so. All that I gave in charity is a portion of my earnings to help my fellow-countrymen. I work hard to earn bread for myself and my children. If this has been the cause of my elevation to Knighthood and *Fakhrut-tujjar*, it shows how keen our Rulers are in recognizing our small gifts. I once more heartily thank Mr. Fayaz M. Abdul Quddus for all the trouble he has taken to entertain me."

Appreciation of Sir Haji Ismail Sait.—On the 12th April 1923, Dewan Bahadur K. P. Puttanna Chetty, C.I.E., wrote to Mr. Mir Humza Hussein Sahib, the President, as follows : —

"I regret my inability to be present at the functions at Chennapatna organized by Mr. Fayaz M. Abdul Quddus for which I have received invitations. Sir Haji Ismail Sait is a representative of the Mohammadan community who has achieved great distinction as the foremost of our merchants and as a philanthropist who has given his money freely in charity

of a public nature. Mr. Quddus is honouring himself in showing honour to such a distinguished public man. I have known the family of Mr. Abdul Quddus for several decades, my friendship dating back to my early Railway days. The late Mr. Sowcar Mustan Sahib was highly respected by Hindu and Mohammadan communities alike and the town and taluk of Chennapatna was very peaceful in his days. Thanks to his steady influence. I am glad to see that his nephew is walking in his footsteps and maintaining the honour of the family."

Sir M. Visvesvaraya wrote to me as follows on 13th April 1923 (Bangalore) :- -

"I thank you for your invitation to the function in your house on Sunday the 15th April. Although to my regret I am unable to attend the function, I desire to associate myself in the closest manner with you and others who participate in it in warmly congratulating Sir Haji Ismail Sait on his elevation to Knighthood. He is a citizen of whom Mysore should be proud."

Letters from Absent Friends. Mr. W. C. Rose, Manager, Bank of Mysore, wrote to me as follows :—

"My wife and I desire to thank you for

your kind invitation to be present on the 15th instant on the occasion of the installation of the Tablet in commemoration of the gift of the Mustan Family, but I much regret we cannot attend so interesting an event in the annals of your esteemed family. I hope the ceremony will be a complete success, and that you and the principal members of the family will ever strive to maintain that high standard of living which your forefathers were always noted for. With kind regards."

Mr. P. G. D'Souza, Director of Industries and Commerce, wrote to me as follows : -

"MY DEAR MR. QUDDUS,

I am extremely sorry that owing to certain unexpected engagements I have to deny myself the pleasure of coming to Chennapatna and to attend the function. I need not tell you of the great interest I have in the industry and also the friendship that I entertain towards your family. It is therefore a source of great regret to me that I am not able to be present on this occasion and showing my appreciation of the help you rendered in the early stages in developing this industry. I therefore feel particularly sorry that I am not able to be present

in person when it is proposed to commemorate and show to you how greatly I appreciate the pioneer service you did with your father in the development of the industry.

I wish you every prosperity and happiness."

Mr. Amin-ul-Mulk Mirza Mohammad Ismail Sahib.— On the 13th March 1922, Mr. Amin-ul-Mulk Mirza Mohammad Ismail Sahib wrote to me as follows :

"Allow me to thank you most warmly for your very kind telegram congratulating me on my appointment as Acting Private Secretary to His Highness the Maharaja. I appreciate it very much. Thanking you very much for all your good wishes."

Mr. Mirza again wrote to me on the 7th January 1923 as follows :-

"Please accept my warmest thanks for your kind congratulations on New Year honour. I appreciate them very much.

With renewed thanks and best wishes."

Presentation of an Address to His Highness the Yuvaraja. On the 2nd June 1923, on the occasion of Scout Rally at Chennapatna, I presented the following address to His Highness the Yuvaraja :—

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HIGHNESS.

“We, the members of the ancient Mustan family, which established itself at Chennapatna at the end of the 18th century and which has, by the grace of Almighty, continued till to-day in unbroken succession, beg to accord Your Highness most hearty welcome on the present occasion of Your Highness’ visit to Chennapatna.

“The Silk trade in which our family has been engaged for the past nearly 130 years shows, we are glad to state, signs of healthy revival, after the serious set back in the year 1907 due to severe outbreak of Pebrine.

“While voicing in general the grateful sentiments of the masses of the people in the various branches of Sericulture for the endeavours made by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja in recent years to improve Sericulture we beg to be pardoned for placing special emphasis on the importance of increasing largely the production of disease-free eggs for wide and systematic distribution among all the rearers of silkworms throughout the State.

“It gives us the greatest pleasure to tender to Your Highness our most humble and sincere felicitation on Your Highness’ recent recovery

from temporary indisposition and it is our fervent every-day prayer to God to maintain at all times in good health the members of the noble Mysore Royal Family.

“We request Your Highness to be pleased to convey to Your Highness’ illustrious brother, our gracious Maharaja, the sentiments of deep loyalty and affectionate regard which we, the members of the Mustan family, always entertain towards His Highness’ person and the historic Throne of Mysore.

“In conclusion, we beg to state that one of us is closely connected with the local Boy Scout Organization as its President. We wish to subscribe the sum of Rs. 1,000 for the Fund inaugurated under Your Highness’ distinguished auspices and we beg that it may be accepted.”

His Highness’ Reply.- His Highness in His reply referred to the above as follows :

“I, as Chief Scout, have sent an appeal and feel sure that the response to it will be as spontaneous and liberal as the one now made by Mr. Abdul Quddus, a member of the ancient Mustan family of this place to whom our sincere thanks are due for this act of practical sympathy on his part.”

CHAPTER IX.

Loyalty to Government.

Royal Visit.--- I was invited by the First Assistant to the Honourable the Resident on the occasion of the unveiling of Her Majesty the Queen's Statue at 4-30 P.M. on the 5th February 1906 during the Royal Visit.

The Jubilee in 1908.--- The following letter No. G. 3375 Gnl. 163-08-21, dated 2nd October 1908 from the Secretary to the Government of Mysore, General and Revenue Departments to the Deputy Commissioner of Bangalore District, will bear testimony to the loyalty of my family to the British Government :---

"Chennapatna Mohammadans fed the poor in honour of the Day and offered prayers for His Majesty and His Highness' long life and prosperity and Mosque illuminated."--- In forwarding the telegram dated 3rd November 1908 from Sowcar Mohammad Mustan Sahib of Chennapatna to the Honourable the Resident in Mysore, I am directed to request that you will be so good as to communicate to the Sowcar

the thanks of the Resident for the message and his appreciation of the loyal spirit in which the 50th anniversary of the assumption of the Government of India by the Crown was celebrated by the Mohammadan inhabitants of Chennapatna."

His Majesty the Late King Emperor. -On the 12th May 1910 Major W. G. Grey, I.A., First Assistant to the Resident in Mysore wrote as follows to Sowcar Mustan Sahib, Chennapatna :---

"I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram dated the 9th May 1910 and to express the sincere thanks of the Resident for the expressions of sympathy and condolence which you have been good enough to convey on behalf of the Mussalman subjects of Chennapatna upon the occasion of the lamented death of His Late Majesty the King-Emperor, and to assure you that the message will be transmitted to the proper quarter."

The New Mysore Treaty. On the 8th November 1913 the Private Secretary to the Dewan sent me the following telegram :—

"Dewan desires me to thank you for your telegram expressing satisfaction regarding the

New Treaty." The above telegram was confirmed by the following letter No. 1009-12, dated 22nd November 1913, and it will be read with interest : -

"In continuation of my telegram to you dated 18th November 1913. I am desired to say that His Highness' Government appreciate the sentiments conveyed by you in your telegram about the New Treaty."

Viceregal Visit in 1913. I feel bound to express my gratitude to the Honourable Sir H. Daly and Lady Daly for kindly inviting me to a Garden Party on Thursday, the 20th November 1913 to have the honour of meeting Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Hardinge.

On the 19th November 1913 at 10-30 A.M., the Opening Ceremony of the New Gates of the combined Lady Curzon and Bowring Civil Hospitals presented by Mr. Ahmed Sait was performed by Her Excellency Lady Hardinge.

The Resident Surgeon was good enough to invite Sowcar Hyder Sahib on the occasion.

Offer of Services. - On the 8th August 1914, when the Great European War broke out, I offered by wire to His Excellency the Viceroy to place the personal services of the members of

my family and all other resources at the disposal of the British Government.

The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy sent me the following wire on the 9th August 1914 from Simla :-

“His Excellency thanks you for your loyal message.”

On the 13th August 1914, Mr. P. B. Warburton, I.C.S., First Assistant to the Resident in Mysore, wrote to me as follows :-

“I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram dated the 8th August 1914, offering your services to the British Government in the present war and to convey the thanks of the Resident for the same.”

Success of British Army. On the 27th August 1914, Mr. P. B. Warburton, I.C.S., First Assistant to the Resident in Mysore, wrote to me as follows :-

“I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram dated 25th August 1914, and to convey the sincere thanks of the Resident to the Mohammadans of Chennapatna for offering prayers for the success of the British Arms.”

The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy sent the following telegraphic message on 7th November 1914 from Delhi : -

“Please convey to the Mussalmans of Chennapatna His Excellency’s cordial thanks for their loyal message. He greatly appreciates the whole-hearted manner in which the Mussalmans of India show their attachment to the British Empire.”

CHAPTER X.

Concluding Remarks.

In conclusion, in my humble judgment there is an immense and almost unlimited scope for the development of all branches of the Sericultural Industry. Mysore is most fortunate in the existence of this unique resource of wealth. Excepting Cashmere and Bengal there is no other part of India which is at present capable of producing the amount of Silk which the Mysore State produces. Now about 40,000 acres are under Mulberry cultivation and the average total value of silk produced annually, taking bad and good years together, is not less than a crore of Rupees. The acreage under Mulberry can easily be almost doubled with proportionate increase in the amount realized by the sale of silk.

There is an almost unlimited market for silk in India itself. In fact, a great deal of silk is annually imported into India from China and Japan. Owing, however, to the unsettled conditions of these two countries the quantity exported is liable to serious fluctuations with

the result that the price of the indigenous silk is steadily increasing. Therefore from a purely economic point of view the extension of sericulture is bound to be remunerative.

The measures which may be adopted with great advantage to the State and the people, immediately are the following :—

(a) The distribution on a sufficiently large scale of disease-free eggs in all the Sericultural areas during the time in which they are required.

(b) The microscopical examination of the eggs and the worms as samples during the season with a view to prevent the spread of pebrine and other epidemic diseases of the worms.

(c) The dissemination of Sericultural knowledge in Kannada and Urdu among the village population by trained staff by means of bulletins, lectures and lantern exhibitions.

(d) The publication of the amount of harvest of every crop either by the Revenue Department or by the Sericultural Department, so that the ryots and merchants may be able to compare and profit by the variations in the figures.

(e) Steady efforts by the departmental staff to remove defects in the existing system of

reeling silk, twisting it, classifying it into several grades and in putting it at the market in a more satisfactory condition.

(f) The introduction of small reeling machines at a moderate cost so as to suit the means of small capitalists.

(g) The setting up of a model silk factory in a central place by the State mainly for the purpose of demonstration and training students and ryots who have an aptitude for the work, on almost self-supporting basis with distinct branches for proving the commercial side of Sericulture apart from the incidental additional outlay involved in training workmen and students for their own benefit.
